DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 257 775 SO 016 626

AUTHOR	Jamison, Ellen
TITLE	Women of the World: A Chartbook for Developing Regions.
INSTITUTION	Agency for International Development (IDCA), Washington, D.C. Office of Women in Development.; Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md.
REPORT NO	WID-5
PUB DATE	Mar 85
NOTE	75p.; For other documents in the series, see SO 016 622-625. Colored bar graphs may not reproduce clearly.
AVAILABLE FROM	Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Stock order no. 003-024-06202-0, $2.75). Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233 ($2.75).
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Birth Rate; *Census Figures; *Charts; Employed Women; *Females; Foreign Countries; *Human Geography; Labor Force; Labor Force Nonparticipants; Latin Americans; Marriage; *Population Distribution; Population Trends; Rural to Urban Migration; Statistical Analysis; Trend Analysis; Womens Education
IDENTIFIERS	Africa (North); Africa (Sub Sahara); Asia Pacific Region; Caribbean; Near East; *Women in Development

ABSTRACT

The fifth in a series of five handbooks designed to present and analyze statistical data on women, this report presents a series of captioned charts describing the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. The original sources of data are the censuses and surveys conducted by national statistical offices of the countries themselves. The chartbook begins with a view of the current total population in each country and the changing proportion of women in urban areas. Next, sex ratios of the population in two key age groups--working (ages 15 to 64 years) and elderly (65 and over)--are presented for rural and urban populations. Male and female education is represented by literacy rates and school enrollment; labor force participation rates and share of labor force are given for men, and labor force participation rates are shown for women in the key age group 20 to 29 years, by rural/urban residence. The percentage of young women in rural and urban areas who are single and the proportion of older men and women who are widowed are illustrated next, followed by the proportion of households headed by women. Fertility rates and gender differences in infant mortality and in life expectancy at birth are also illustrated. The chartbook is organized by topic. Within each topic, charts are presented by region; and within each chart, data are shown by country. (LH)

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WOMEN OF THE WORLD

A Chartbook for Developing Regions

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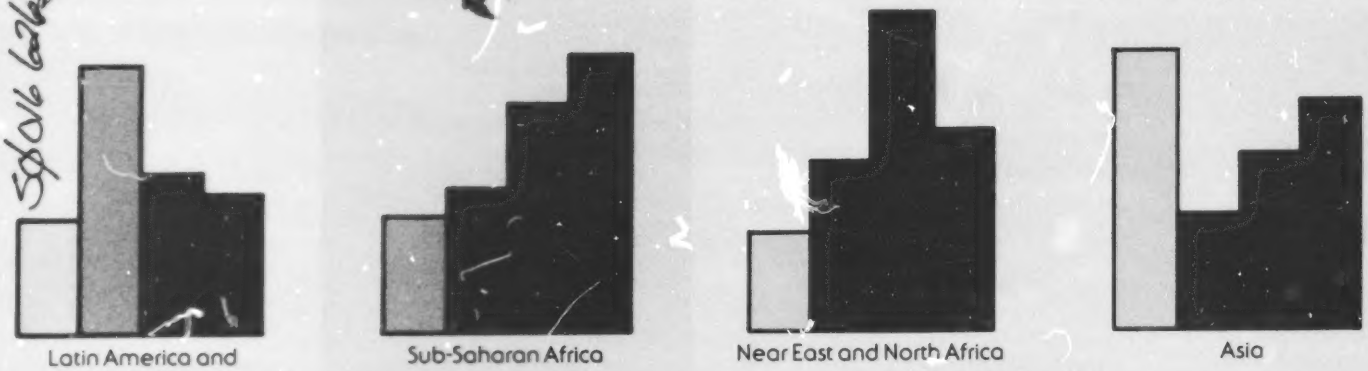

Latin America and the Caribbean

Sub-Saharan Africa

Near East and North Africa

Asia

U. S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. Agency for International Development
OFFICE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the staff of the Office of Women in Development, Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, Agency for International Development, for their support throughout the various stages of the Census Bureau's Women In Development project, especially to **Kay Davies**, Director of the WID office, and to **Esrline Wilkinson**, Project Monitor.

This report was prepared by **Ellen Jamison**, Staff Assistant to the Chief, Center for International Research. Statistics upon which the charts are based were compiled and evaluated by the Center's demographic analysts, and the data were verified by the statistical assistants. Thanks are due to **Larry Owens** for typing the report.

We wish to express our gratitude to the national statistical offices and other national and international organizations worldwide, without whose generous collaboration the compilation of data for reports like this would not be possible.

Finally, we are grateful to the authors of the first four reports in the *Women of the World* series, **Elsa M. Chaney, Jeanne S. Newman, Mary Chamie,** and **Nasra M. Shah,** for their interpretations of the data and their insights into the status of women in each of the regions.

Library of Congress Card Number 85-600524

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WID-5

WOMEN OF THE WORLD

A Chartbook for Developing Regions

This report was prepared under a Participating Agency Service Agreement with the Office of Women in Development, Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, U.S. Agency for International Development.

Issued March 1985

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WOMEN OF THE WORLD

A Chartbook for Developing Regions

Introduction

This report was prepared under a Participating Agency Service Agreement with the Office of Women in Development (WID), Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).[1] A strong commitment to WID as a policy issue is an administrative mandate within USAID. As a result, the Agency has issued a comprehensive Policy Paper on Women in Development. This paper directs that women will be integrated into all the Agency's programs and projects. It describes how that integration shall take place, and it offers benchmarks to measure the effects of this integration. One such benchmark is the collection of gender-disaggregated data. The Agency is convinced, as outlined in the Women in Development Policy Paper, that the disaggregation of data by sex must be included in all project documents in order to measure the Agency's accomplishments more effectively.

To emphasize the importance of disaggregating data by sex in development activities, and as a means of obtaining sex-disaggregated data on a worldwide scale, the WID office contracted with the U.S. Bureau of the Census to produce demographic data on countries in the developing world. This report presents a series of captioned charts describing the situation of women in selected developing countries based on a coherent set of statistics including those analyzed in detail in the first four reports in the *Women of the World* series. The original sources of data are the censuses and surveys conducted by the national statistical offices of the countries themselves.

The chartbook begins with a view of the current total population in each country and the changing proportion of women in urban areas. Next, sex ratios of the population in two key age groups—working age (15 to 64 years) and elderly (65 years and over)—are presented for rural and urban populations.

Women's and men's education is represented by literacy rates and school enrollment and their working life by labor force participation rates. Literacy is shown for women and men in rural and urban settings and nationwide for women in selected adult age groups. Enrollment is presented for girls and boys in the key age group 10 to 14 years. The proportion of women and men who are economically active is shown as well as the percentage of all members of the labor force who are women. Labor force participation rates are shown for women in the key age group 20 to 29 years, by rural/urban residence.

The percentage of young women in rural and urban areas who are single and the proportion of older women and men who are widowed are illustrated next, followed by the proportion of households headed by women. Women's fertility is presented as the average total number of children per woman and the distribution of lifetime fertility by mother's age. Finally, gender differences in infant mortality and in life expectancy at birth are illustrated.

All of the topics presented are important the world over, but women's situation with respect to each of them may differ widely among the world's regions or even among countries within regions. Indeed, within a given country itself, there is no truly "average" woman, and the statistics necessarily present only a generalized picture.

The chartbook is organized by topic. Within each topic, charts are presented by region; and within each chart, data are shown by country. Because the various countries have different schedules for taking censuses and surveys, it is not possible to represent all countries' situations at the same point in time. Only data pertaining to 1970 or later are included to minimize differences that may be due to time reference rather than to actual contemporary variations. Even then, caution should be exercised in making intercountry or interregional comparisons when time references diverge by more than a few years.

For a given country, data on the various topics may refer to different years. This is the case when the most recent census or survey provides information on only one or a few of the subjects covered in this chartbook or when early census returns do not provide the rural/urban breakdown needed for a particular chart. Thus, the most up-to-date information available is

(Continued on page 70)

[1]This report is a continuation of a long-term interagency project in which a Women in Development Data Base was established at the Bureau of the Census, under sponsorship of the Agency for International Development, containing statistics on a variety of demographic, social, and economic topics for 120 countries worldwide. The data for developing countries were analyzed in detail in the first four reports in this *Women of the World* series: *Latin America and the Caribbean* (May 1984), *Sub-Saharan Africa* (August 1984), *Near East and North Africa* (April 1985), and *Asia and the Pacific* (April 1985).

Chart 1.
Total Population: Midyear 1985
Part 1. **Latin America and the Caribbean**

The 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries included in this chartbook range in size from Brazil, one of the world's largest countries with over 137 million population, to Guyana, with about 840 thousand inhabitants. The countries are as diverse in culture and topography as they are in population size. Although there is a fair amount of homogeneity within the subregions of the Caribbean, Middle America, and South America, each country has a distinct character, of which the status of women is a part.

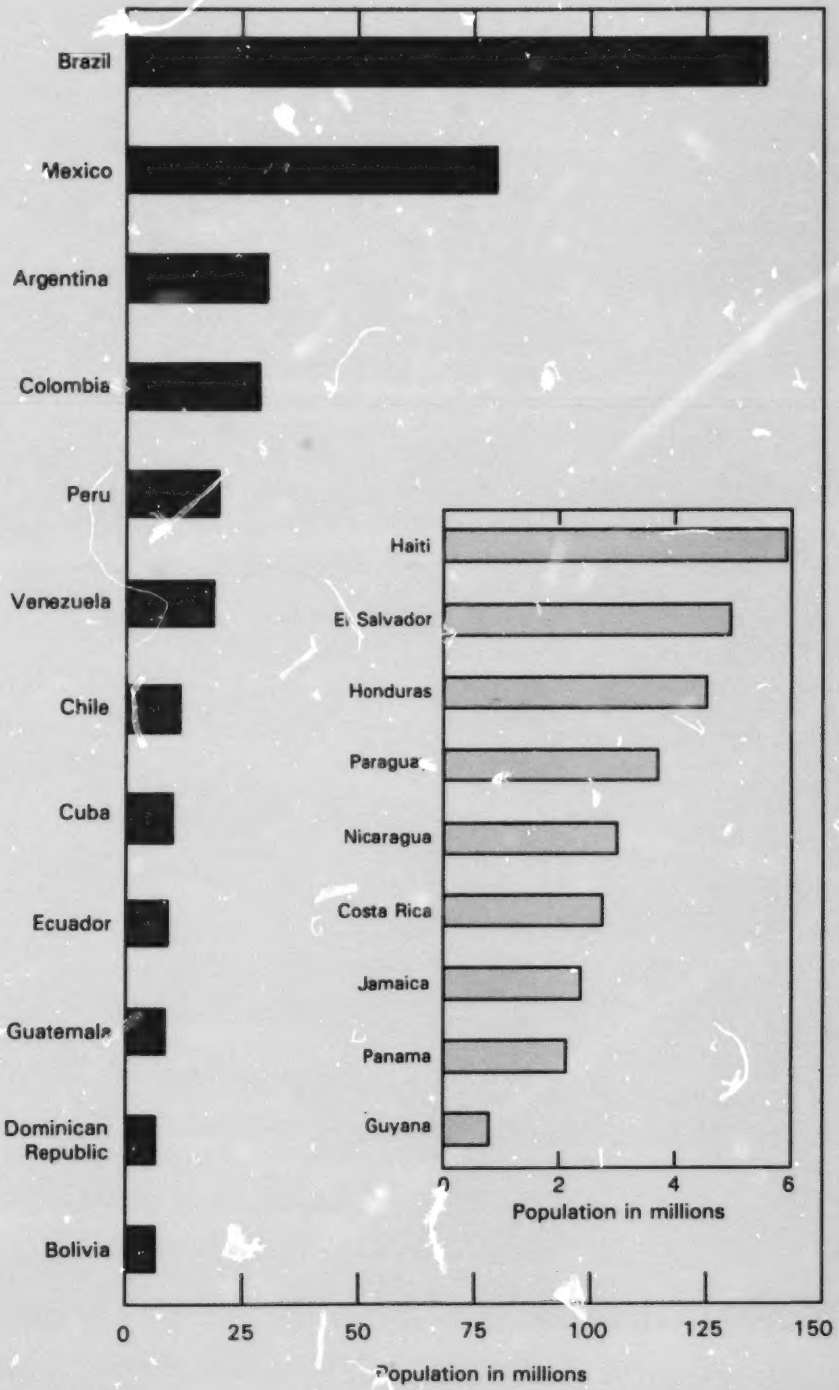


Chart 1.
Total Population: Midyear 1985
Part 2. Sub-Saharan Africa

The majority of Sub-Saharan African countries are small to moderate in population size, with only Nigeria, with an estimated 91 million inhabitants, taking its place among the world's largest nations.

The five most populous countries—Nigeria, Zaire, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Sudan—account for half of the combined population of the 40 Sub-Saharan African countries included in this chartbook.

Countries of the region display a diversity of cultural and geographical settings, which may be summarized to some extent by the subregional groupings used in the remainder of the charts.

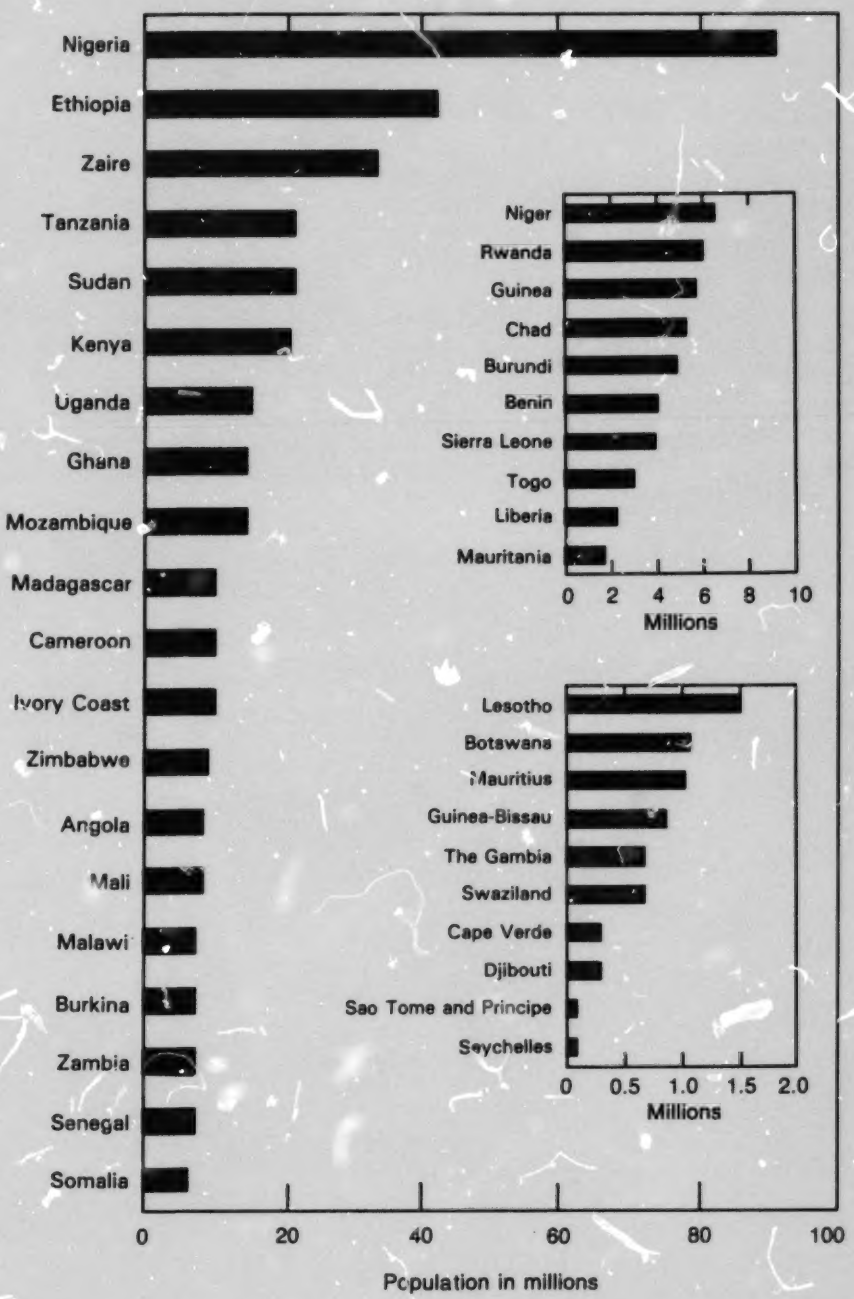


Chart 1.
Total Population: Midyear 1985
Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

Populations of the 14 countries of the Near East and North Africa included in this chartbook range in size from 670 thousand in Cyprus to more than 50 million in Turkey. On the remainder of the charts, these nations are grouped into the subregions of North Africa, Western South Asia (Arab and Non-Arab countries), and Middle South Asia. A wide variety of culture and geography characterizes the region overall, as reflected by the following charts depicting the situation of women.

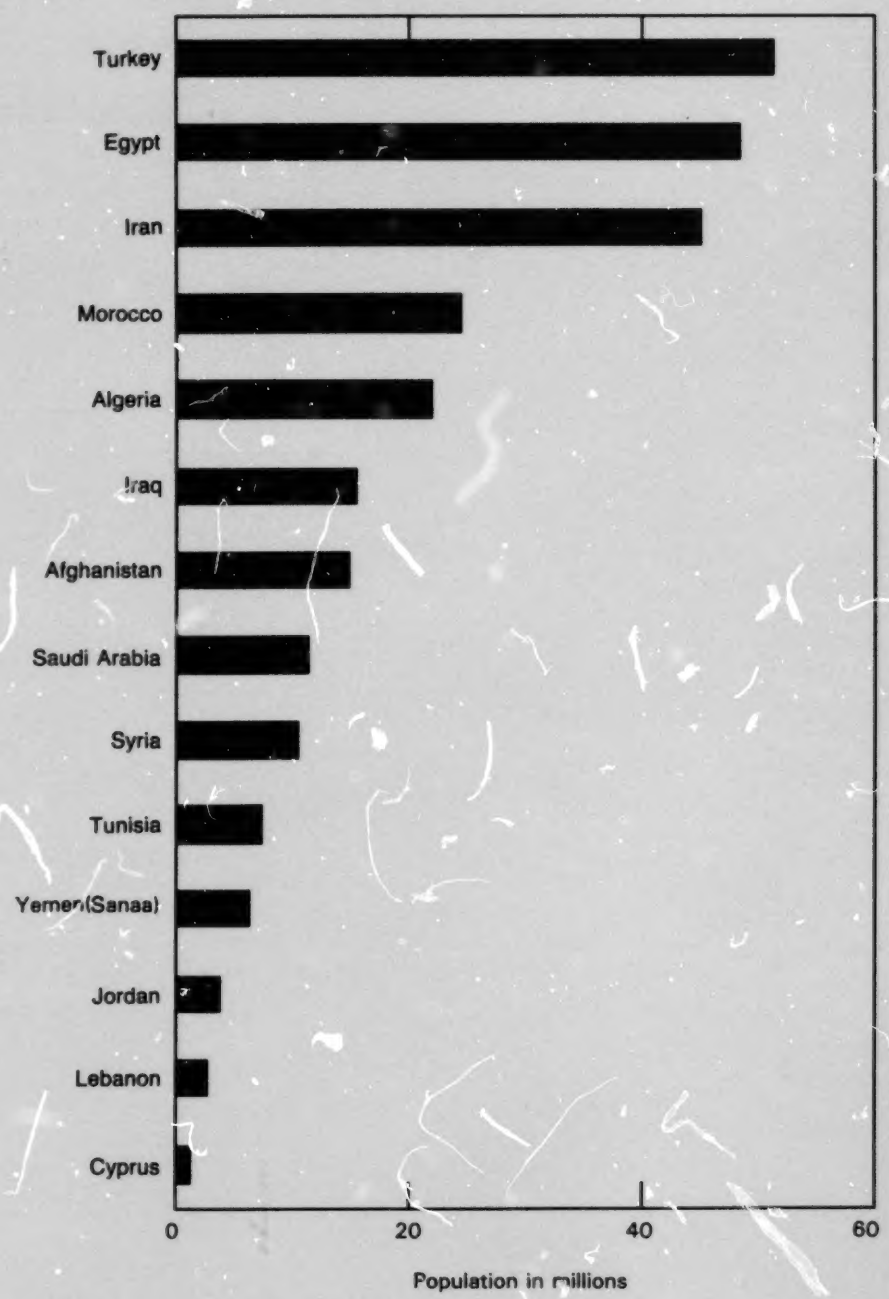
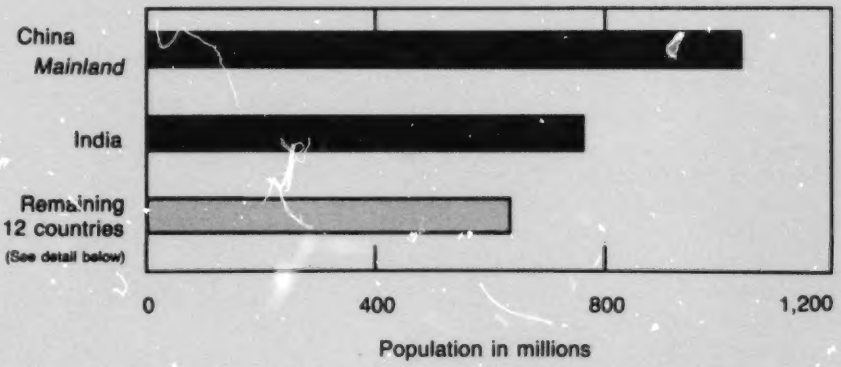


Chart 1.
Total Population: Midyear 1985
Part 4. **Asia**

The population of the 14 Asian countries included in this region covers a broad range, from over a billion inhabitants in China, the world's most populous nation, to five and a half million in the city-state of Hong Kong. Asia also is home to the world's second largest country, India, with well over 700 million population. Although seemingly dwarfed by their larger neighbors, Bangladesh and Pakistan, each with about 100 million inhabitants, are also among the world's most populous nations.

Regardless of the overall population size, it is important to assess the situation of women in each country's unique context.



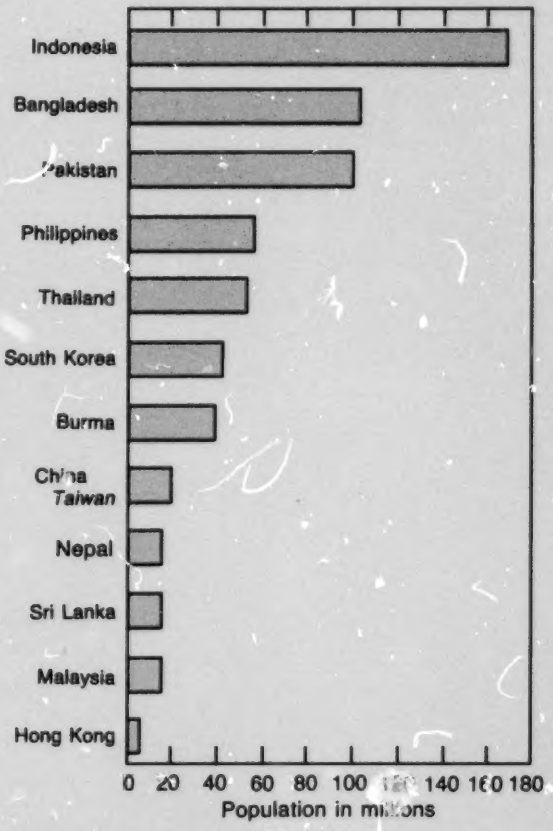


Chart 2.

Percent of Women Living in Urban Areas: Latest Two Censuses

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

The proportion of women residing in urban areas is increasing in all Latin American countries and Caribbean islands, as it is elsewhere in the developing world. This region is unique, however, in that more women than men migrate from the countryside to the cities and towns. Over 50 percent of all women now live in urban areas in seven of the ten South American countries shown on the chart.

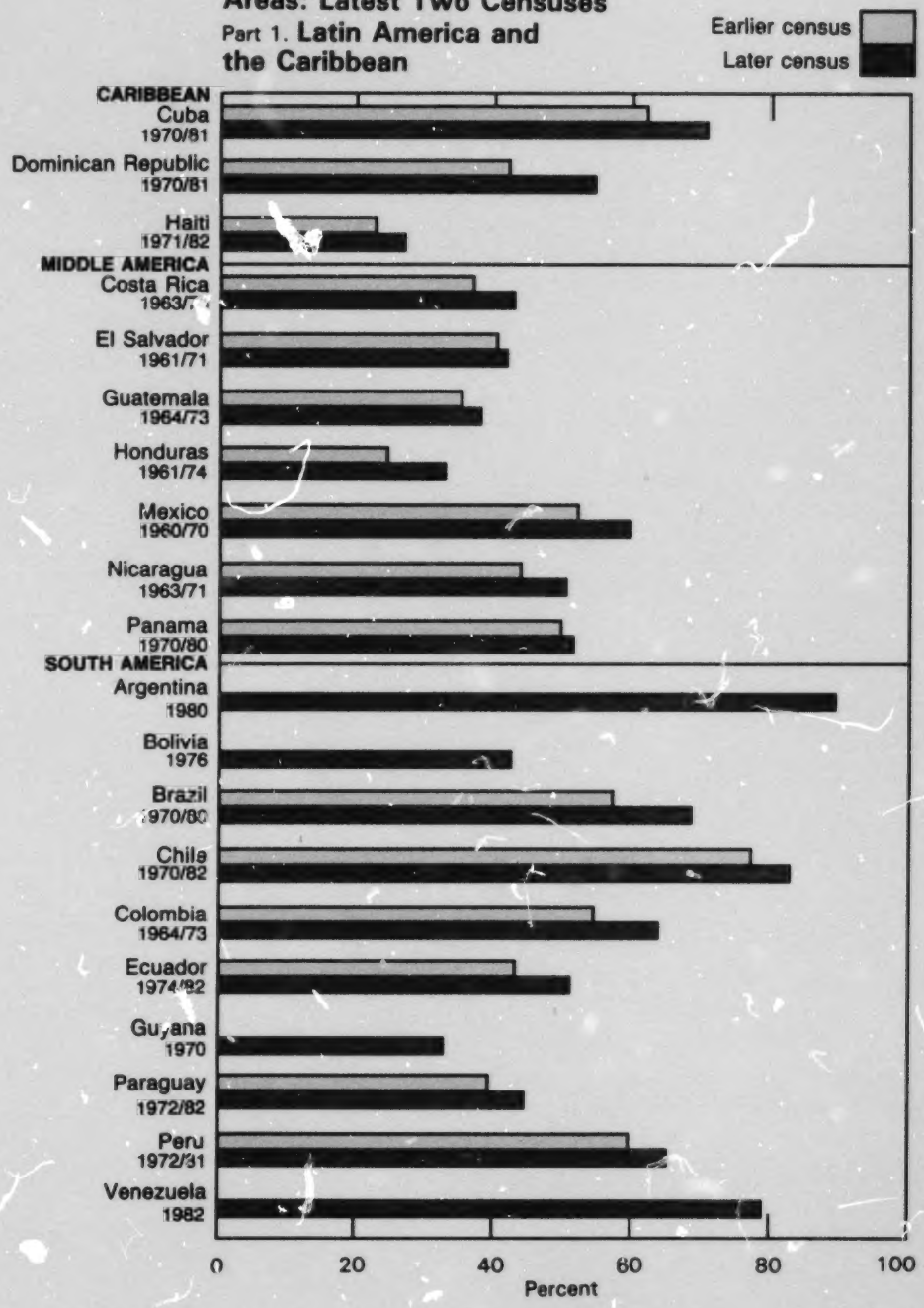
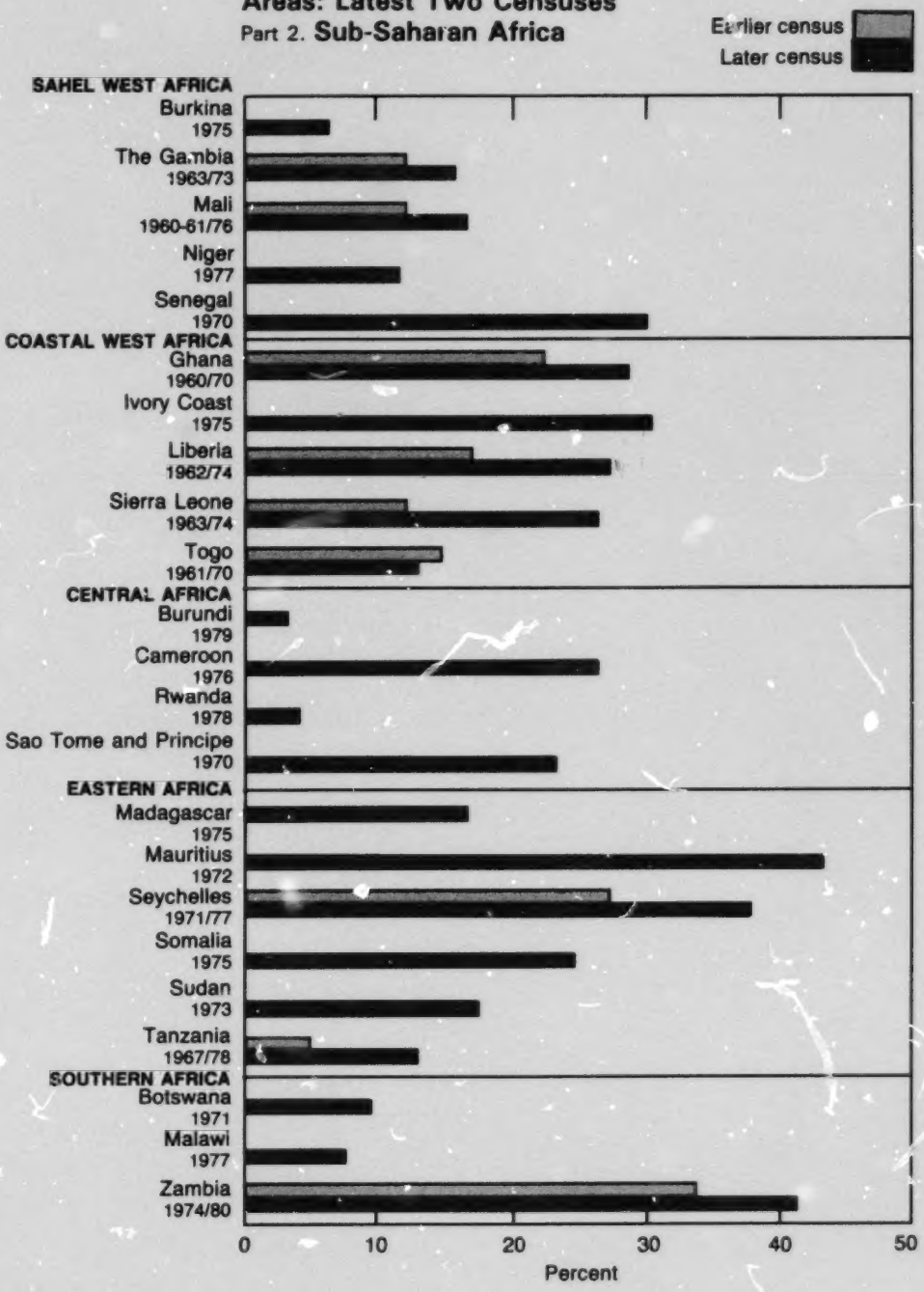


Chart 2.
Percent of Women Living in Urban Areas: Latest Two Censuses
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Although Sub-Saharan Africa is still primarily rural, there is an incipient tendency for increasing proportions of women to be found in its towns and cities, as evidenced by those countries having data from two recent censuses. Nevertheless, by far the majority of women still inhabit the countryside and, in fully half the countries, fewer than one-fifth of the women are city dwellers.

The pattern of change shows little variation among the subregions of Sub-Saharan Africa, but the actual level of women's urbanization remains low in most of Sahel West Africa and parts of Central and Southern Africa in comparison with the other subregions.



In the Arab countries of Western South Asia, the proportion of women in urban areas has reached 60 percent or more, and all countries in the Near East/North Africa region with data from two censuses show an increase over time, in line with urbanization patterns worldwide.

Chart 2.

Percent of Women Living in Urban Areas: Latest Two Censuses

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

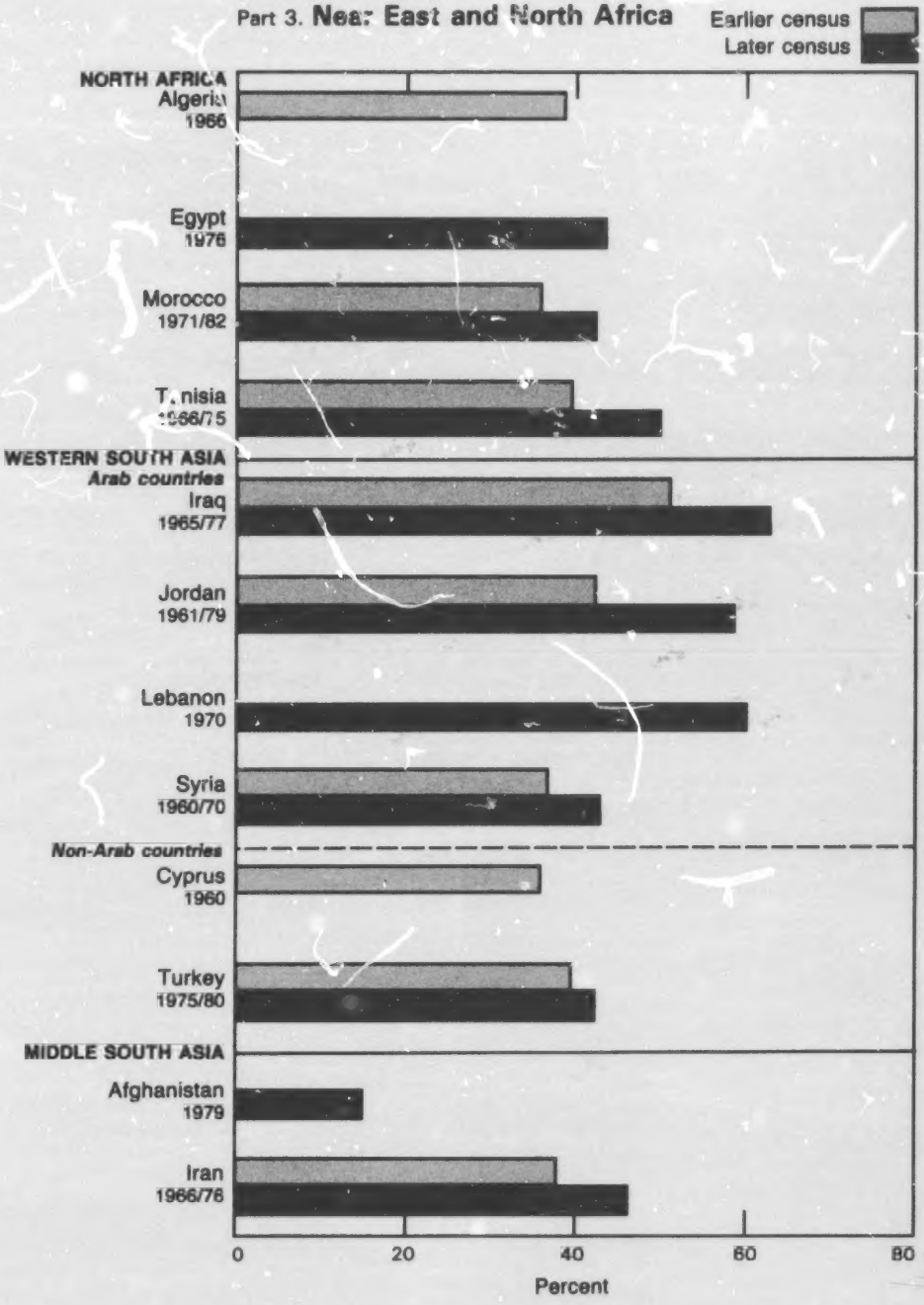


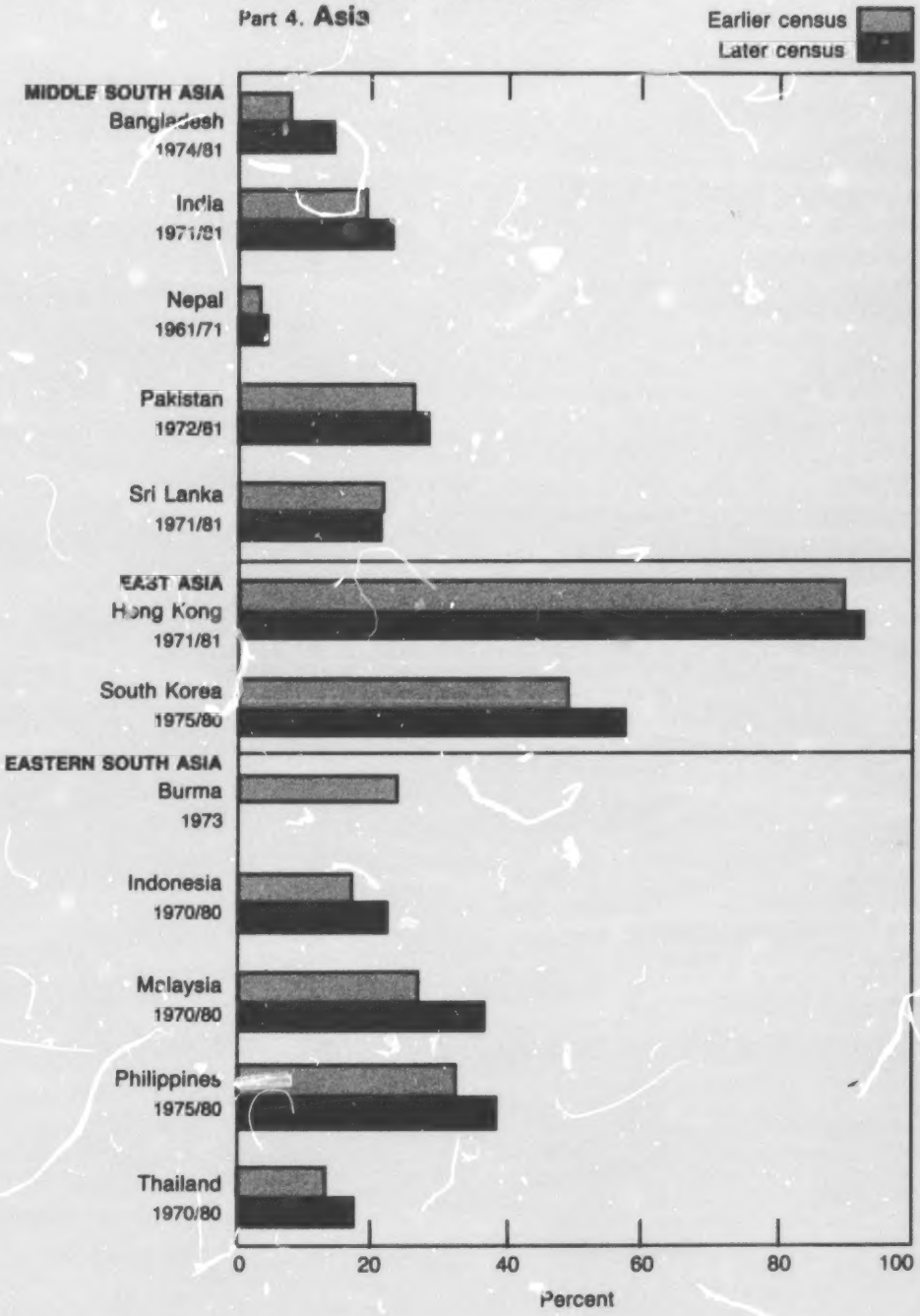
Chart 2.

Percent of Women Living in Urban Areas: Latest Two Censuses

Part 4. **Asia**

The present and changing state of women's urbanization shows a varied pattern among the Asian subregions. East Asian countries have by far the largest proportion of women in urban areas, while under 40 percent of women in both Middle South Asia and Eastern South Asia are classified as city dwellers.

Almost without exception, the most recent census records a larger proportion of women living in urban places than the previous census did.



Among the working-age population, women predominate in urban areas and men in rural areas in nearly all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This pattern, in contrast to the pattern in other developing regions, reflects the greater opportunities that women find for work in the cities and towns. Woman's urban jobs in the Latin America/Caribbean region, however, are often in the service sector, where pay and prestige are minimal.

Chart 3.
Sex Ratios of Working-Age Population, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 1. **Latin America and the Caribbean**

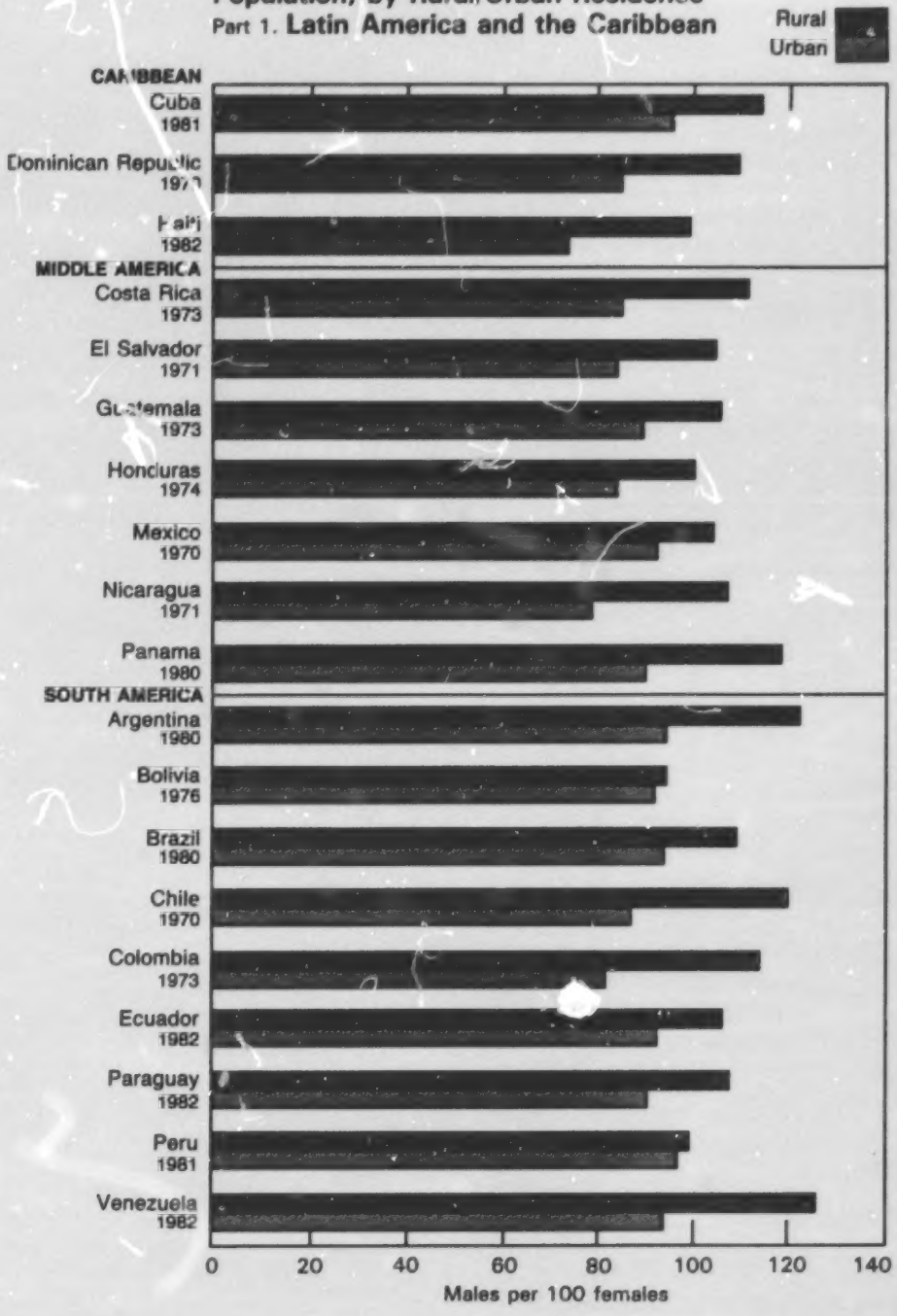


Chart 3.

Sex Ratios of Working-Age Population, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Although some women in Sub-Saharan Africa have moved to the cities, working-age women still outnumber men in rural areas in nearly every country. Rural sex ratios are especially low in Southern Africa, where rural women are often left behind as men migrate for employment in urban areas and other countries.

With few exceptions, urban sex ratios in the working ages are correspondingly higher than those in rural areas, reflecting the tendency for men to predominate in the urban economic sector.

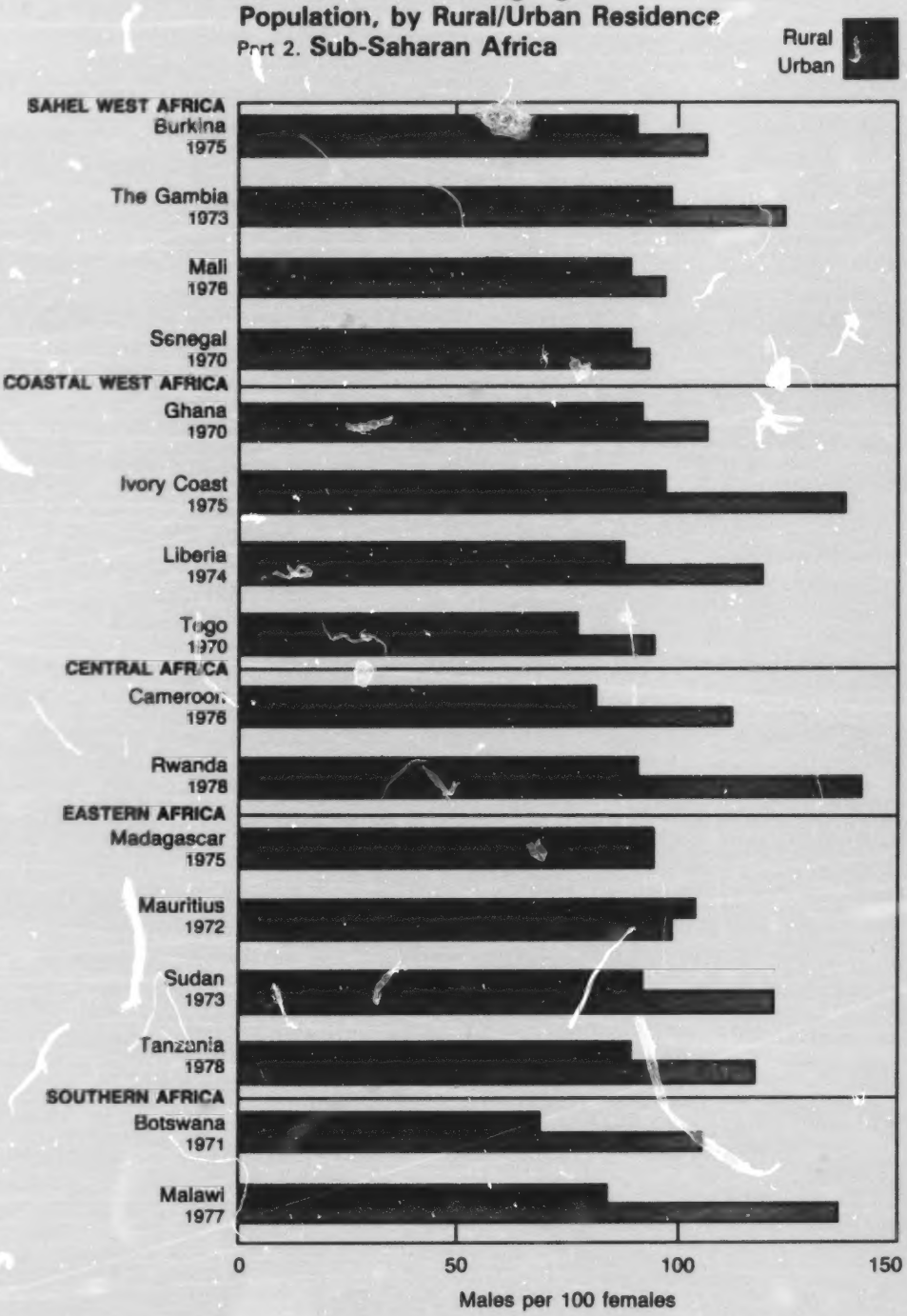


Chart 3.

Sex Ratios of Working-Age Population, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

Among the population of working age, most countries of the Near East and North Africa have a pattern of slightly higher sex ratios in urban than rural areas, reflecting the migration of men to the towns and cities to work. In a few countries, the differences are substantial.

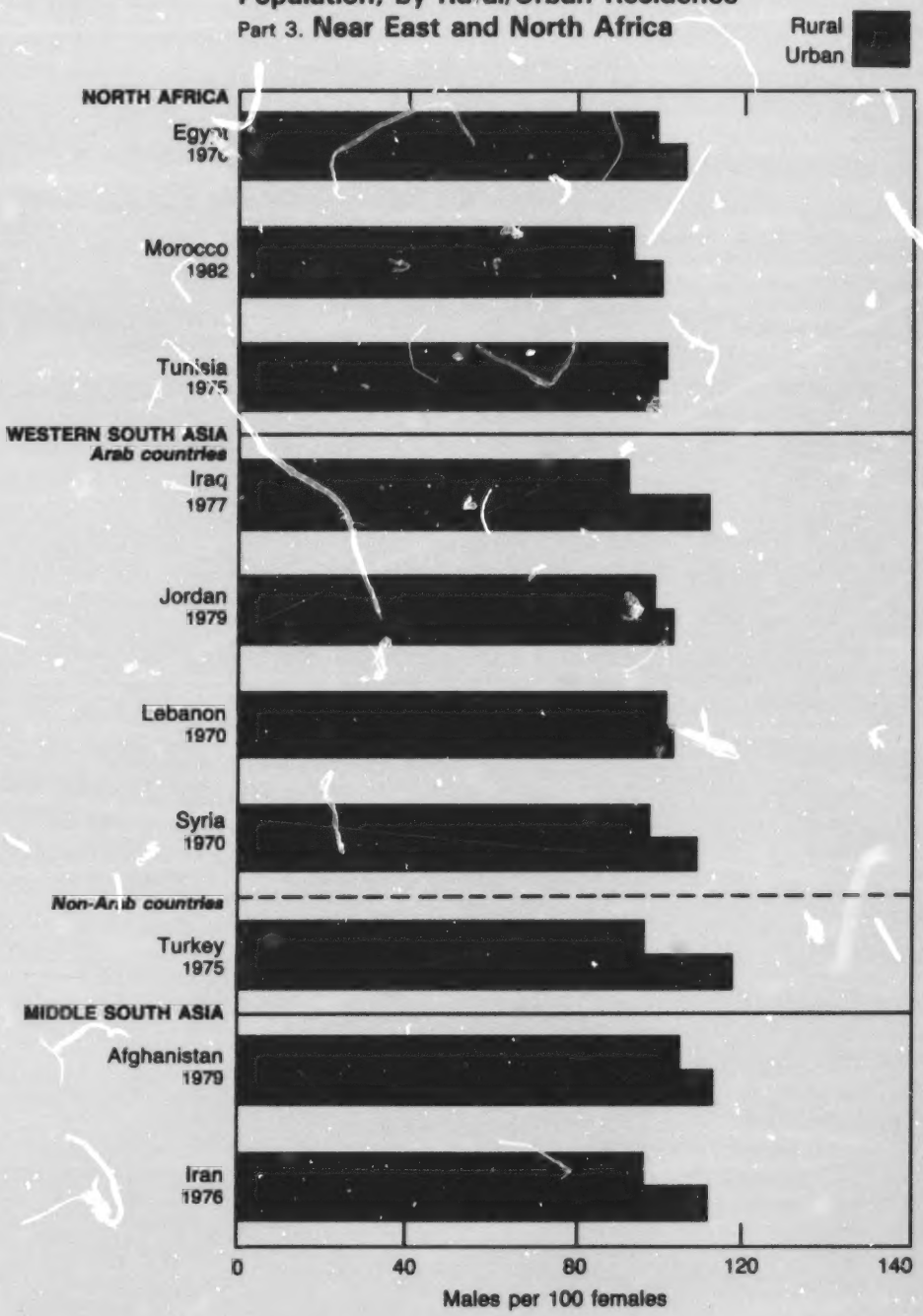


Chart 3.

Sex Ratios of Working-Age Population, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 4. **Asia**

In contrast to the other Asian subregions, the countries of Middle South Asia show a very high sex ratio in the working ages in urban areas, reflecting the migration of men to the cities in search of work.

Elsewhere, the ratio of men to women is much nearer to parity in both the cities and the countryside. Only in East Asia and two countries in Eastern South Asia, where opportunities are greater for women to work in service, manufacturing, and other industries, does the rural sex ratio exceed that in urban areas.

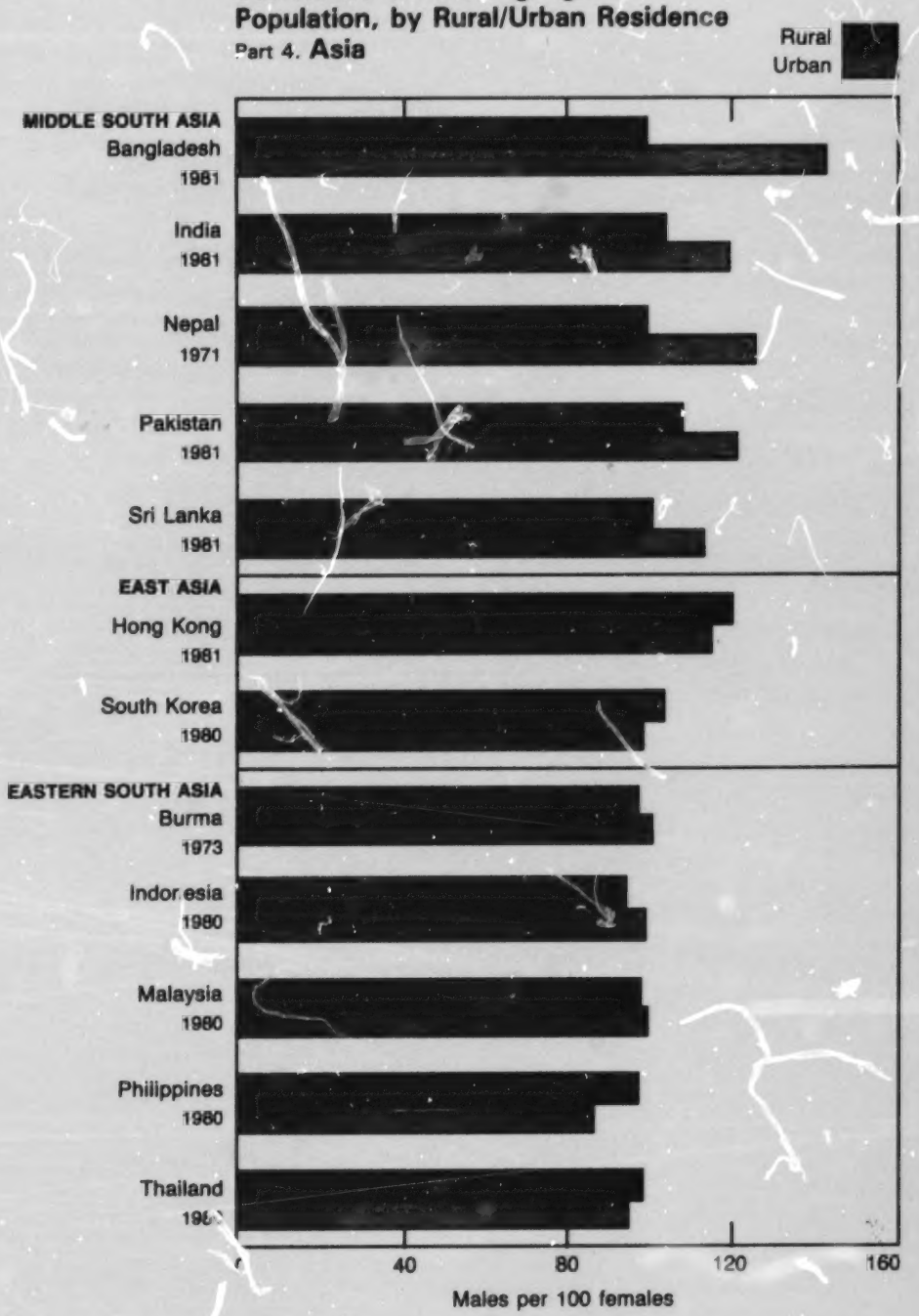


Chart 4.

Sex Ratios of Elderly Population, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

As was seen in chart 3 for the working-age population, there is a predominance also of elderly women in the cities and towns and of elderly men in the rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. In some countries, the pattern is even more accentuated among the elderly, with more than 120 men per 100 women in the rural areas of several countries and fewer than 80 men per 100 women in the urban areas of more than half the countries.

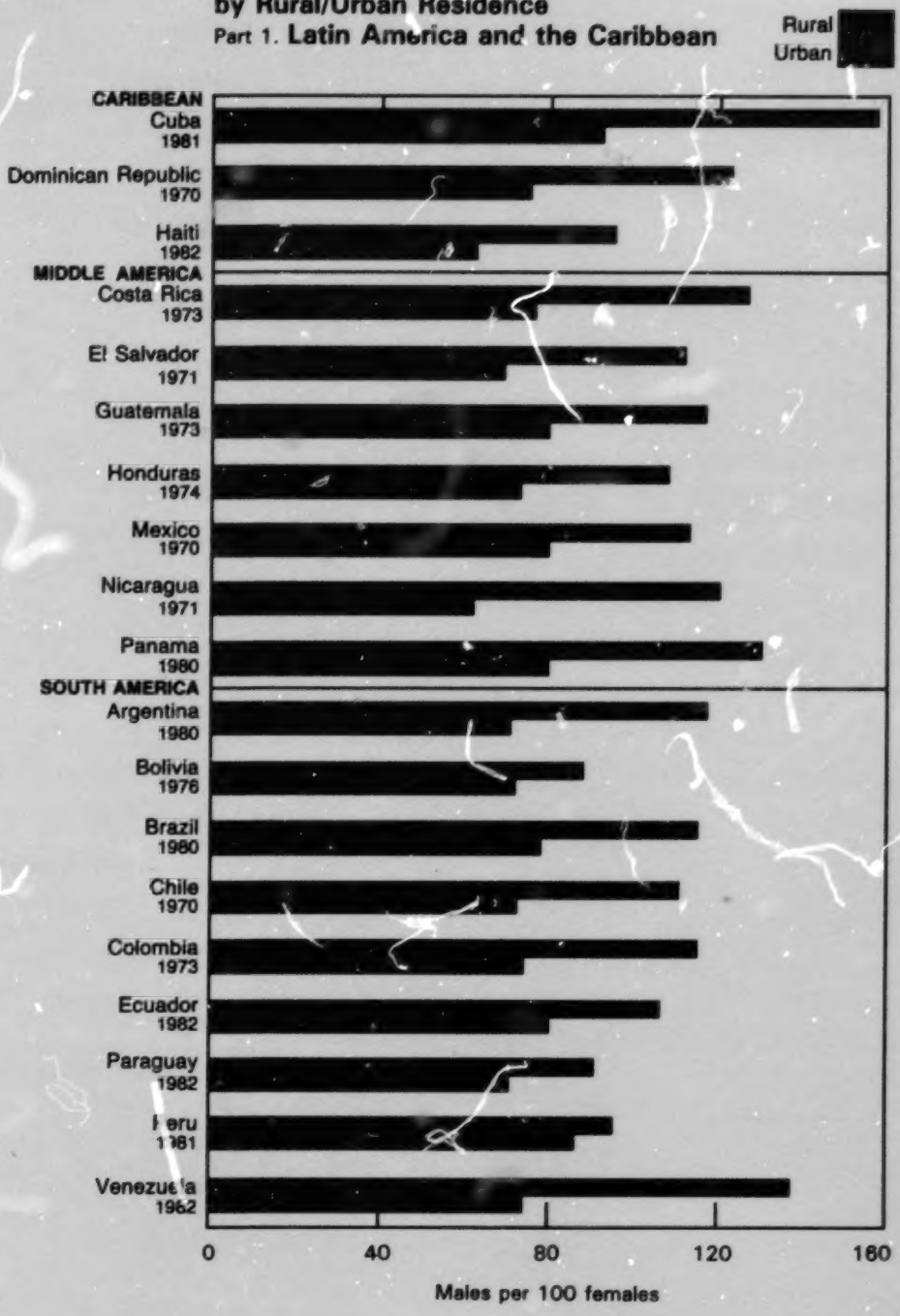


Chart 4.
Sex Ratios of Elderly Population, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Statistics on age in African countries are generally poor, and this may be especially true among the older population. The reported data show that among the elderly, men outnumber women in rural areas in most of Sub-Saharan Africa. In urban areas, on the other hand, elderly women outnumber men in half the countries.

In much of West Africa and parts of East Africa, rural sex ratios are especially high among the elderly, while in Southern Africa a scarcity of rural men continues into the older ages.

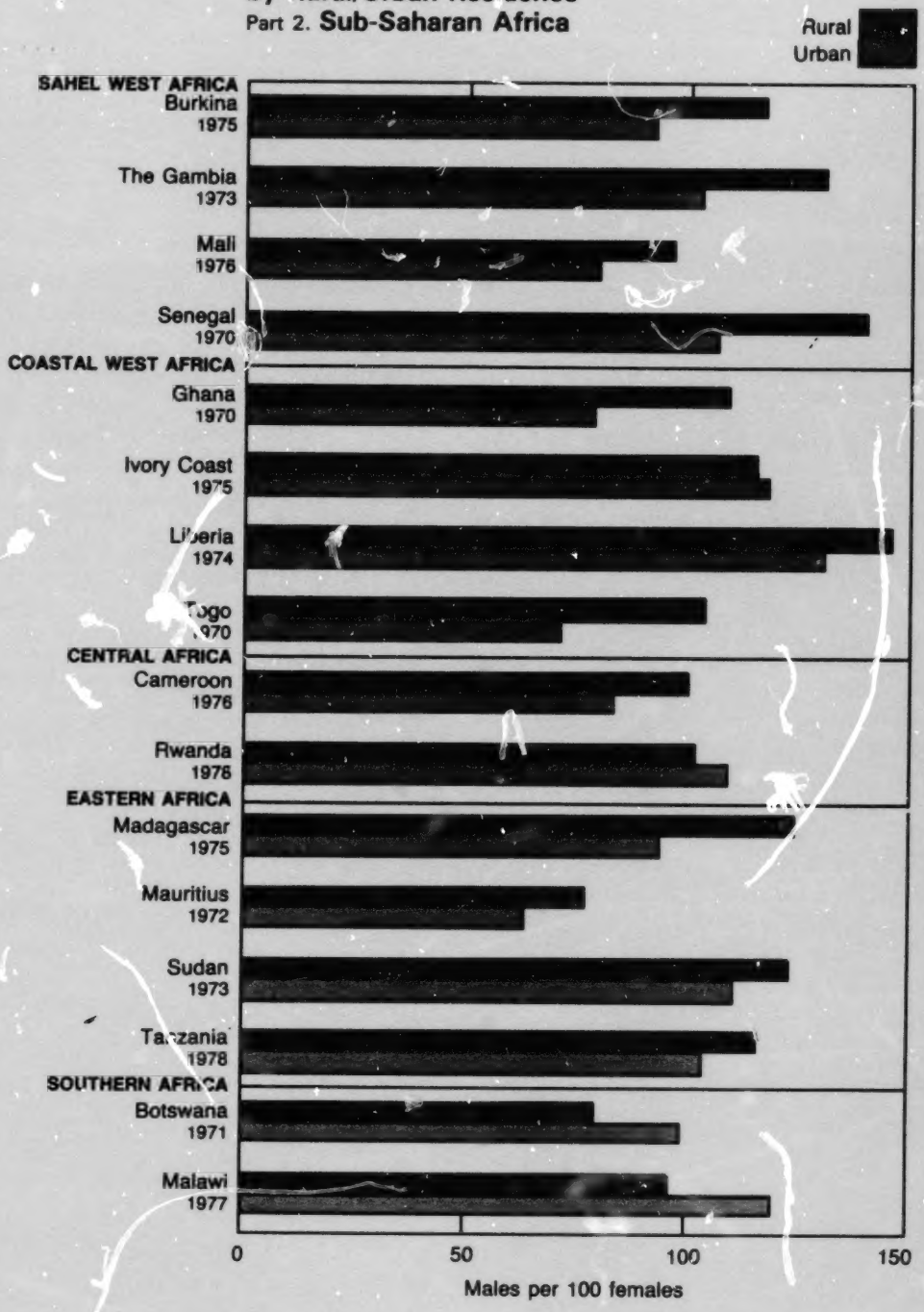


Chart 4.
Sex Ratios of Elderly Population, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

Among the aged in most of the North African and Near Eastern countries, sex ratios are much higher in rural than urban areas. In contrast to the working ages, where men predominate in urban areas, this pattern reflects a scarcity of older men in the cities.

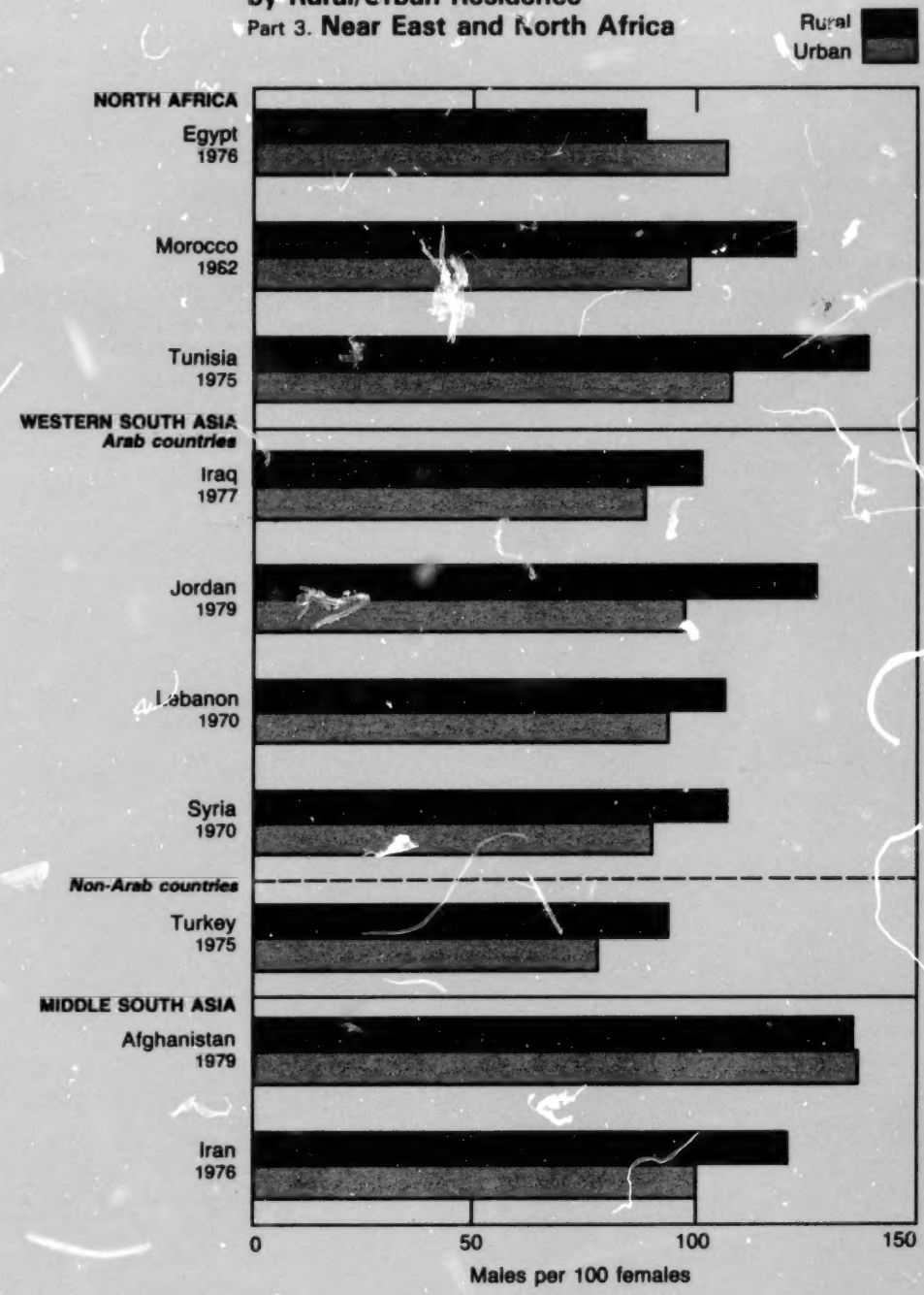


Chart 4.
Sex Ratios of Elderly Population, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 4. Asia

With a few exceptions, women's more favorable longevity is reflected in the low sex ratios of the elderly population in Asian countries. This is usually the case in both rural and urban areas, though the ratio of men to women among the elderly is usually higher in the countryside than in the cities and towns.

In Middle South Asia, the situation is somewhat different, with much higher sex ratios in some countries and an occasional reverse pattern between rural and urban areas.

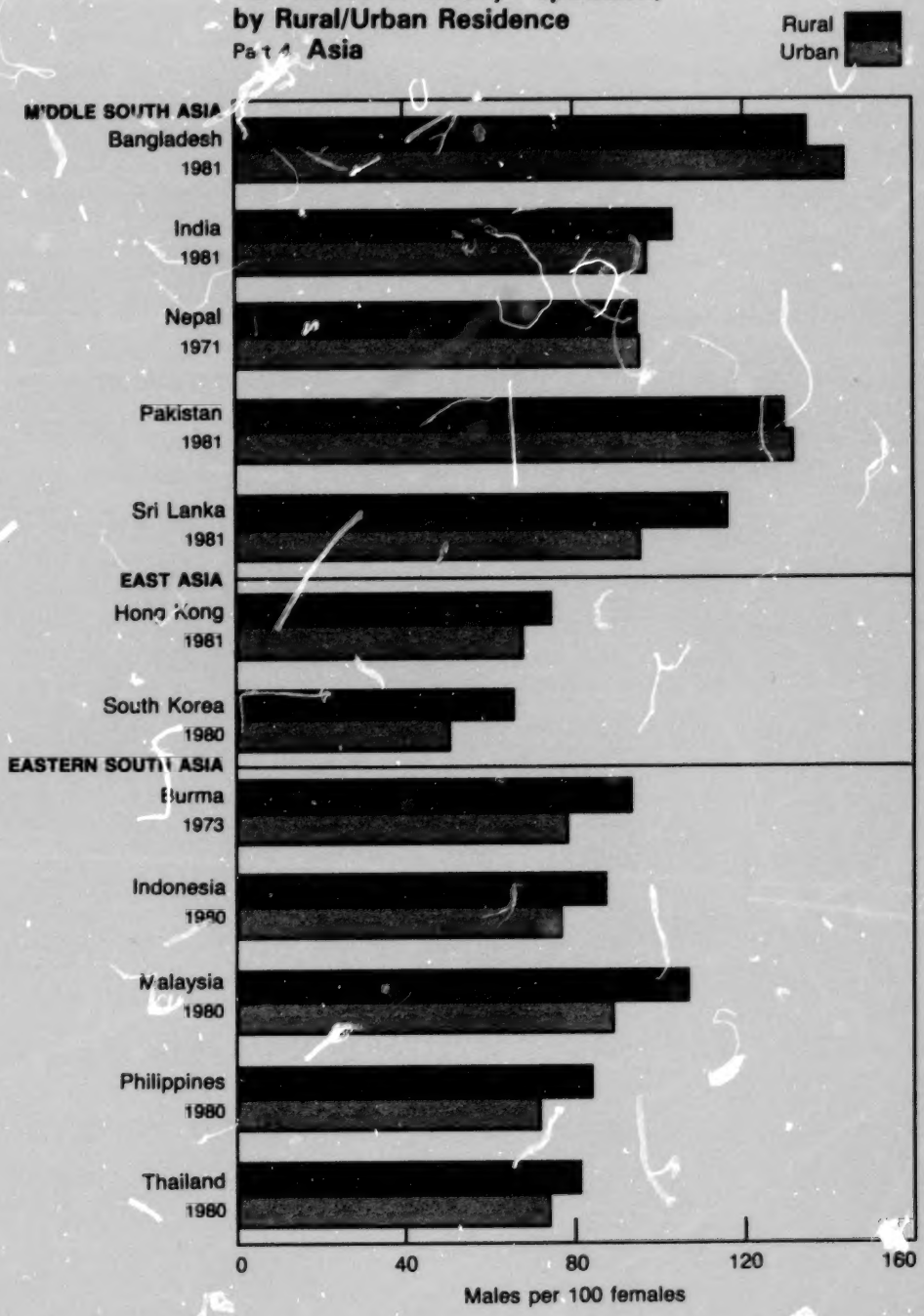


Chart 5.

Percent Literate Age 10 Years and Over, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

Literacy rates are high throughout the cities and towns of Latin America but remain at somewhat lower levels in the countryside. Although the classic pattern exists of generally lower levels of literacy among women than men and lower levels in rural than in urban areas, gender differences are small in many countries.

Latin American women, along with those of East and Eastern South Asia, rank among women with the highest literacy rates in developing regions.

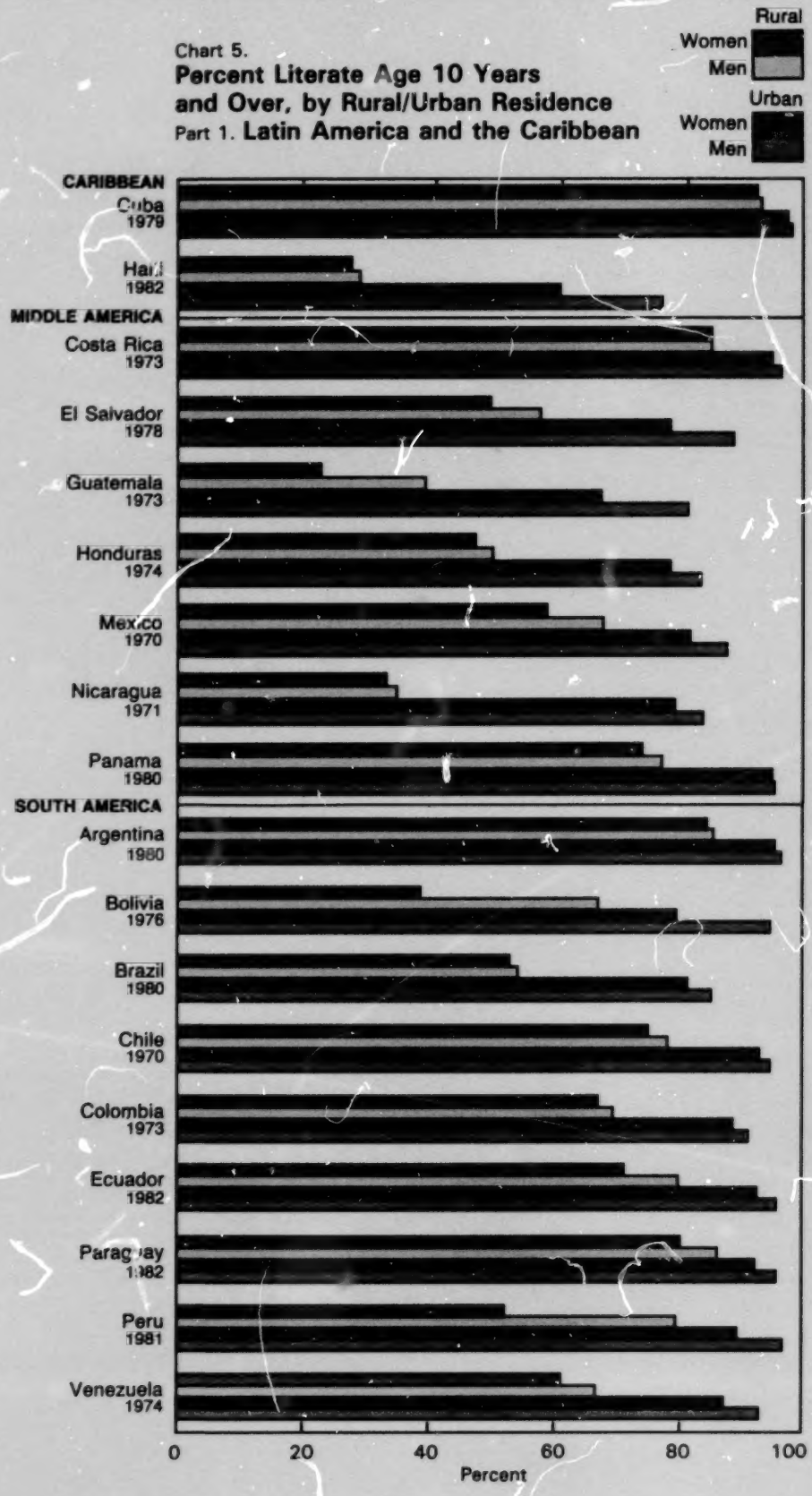


Chart 5.

Percent Literate Age 10 Years and Over, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In Sub-Saharan Africa, as in much of the developing world, rural women have scant opportunity to learn to read and write.

Urban women fare somewhat better, nearly always exceeding the literacy levels of rural men, but still falling well below the levels of their urban male counterparts.

West African literacy for both sexes, but particularly for women, remains below that of the other subregions, with fewer than one in three urban women and fewer than one in ten rural women able to read and write.

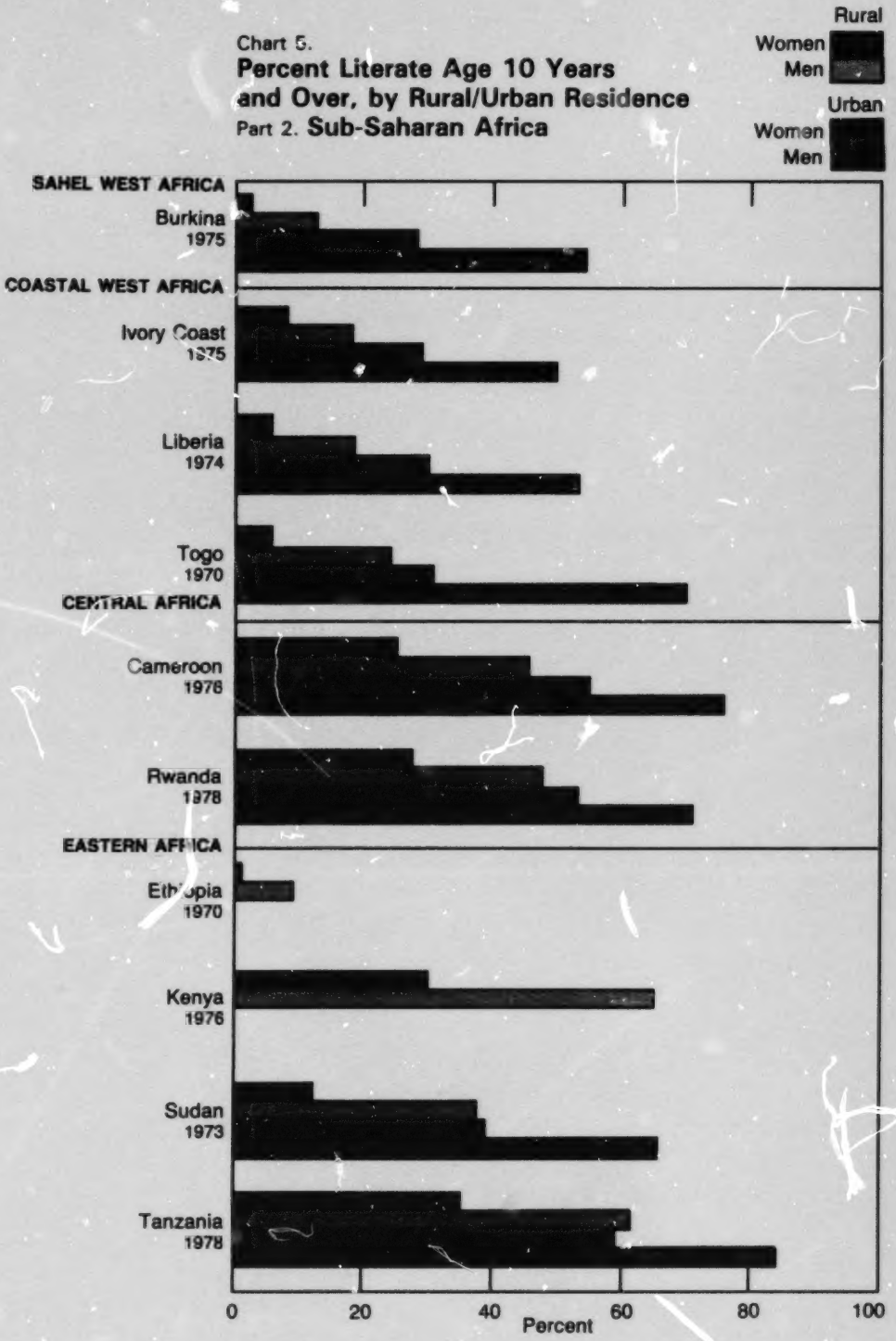
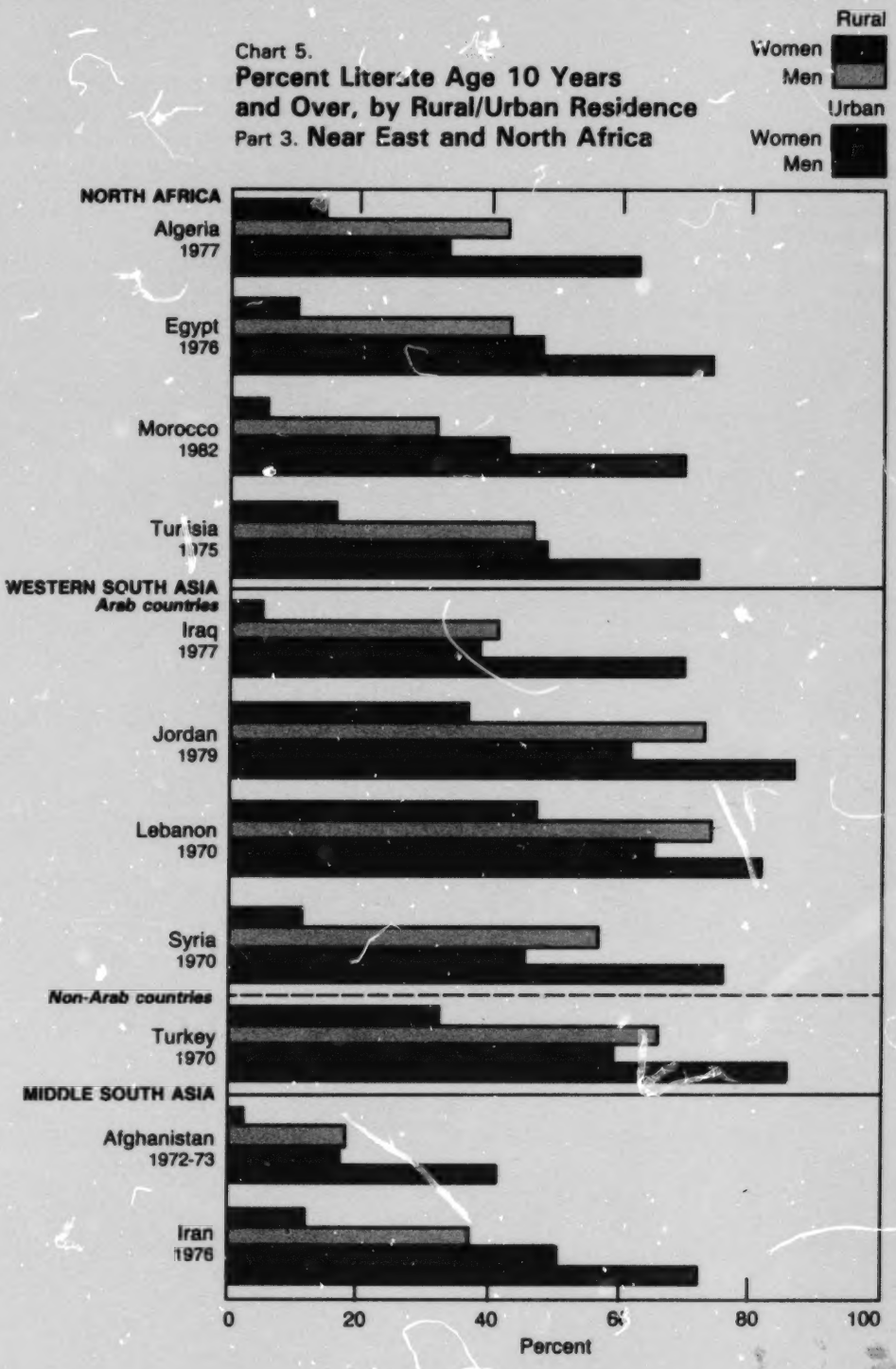


Chart 5.

Percent Literate Age 10 Years and Over, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**



For both women and men, literacy rates in the Near East and North Africa are higher in urban than rural areas, in line with the pattern in other developing regions and reflecting the greater opportunity for study in the cities and towns. Unlike the situation in the other regions, however, literacy rates of urban women in this region often are lower than those of rural men.

In a few countries, women's literacy rates in both urban and rural areas are among the lowest in the world.

Chart 3.
Percent Literate Age 10 Years and Over, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 4. **Asia**

The classic pattern of literacy in developing countries is seen again in Asia, though actual levels of literacy are highly variable among the subregions.

East Asia and Eastern South Asia show rather high literacy levels for all categories, though rates are typically lower in rural than urban areas and lower among women than men.

In Middle South Asia, the same pattern exists, but literacy levels are usually much lower, and especially low among rural women.

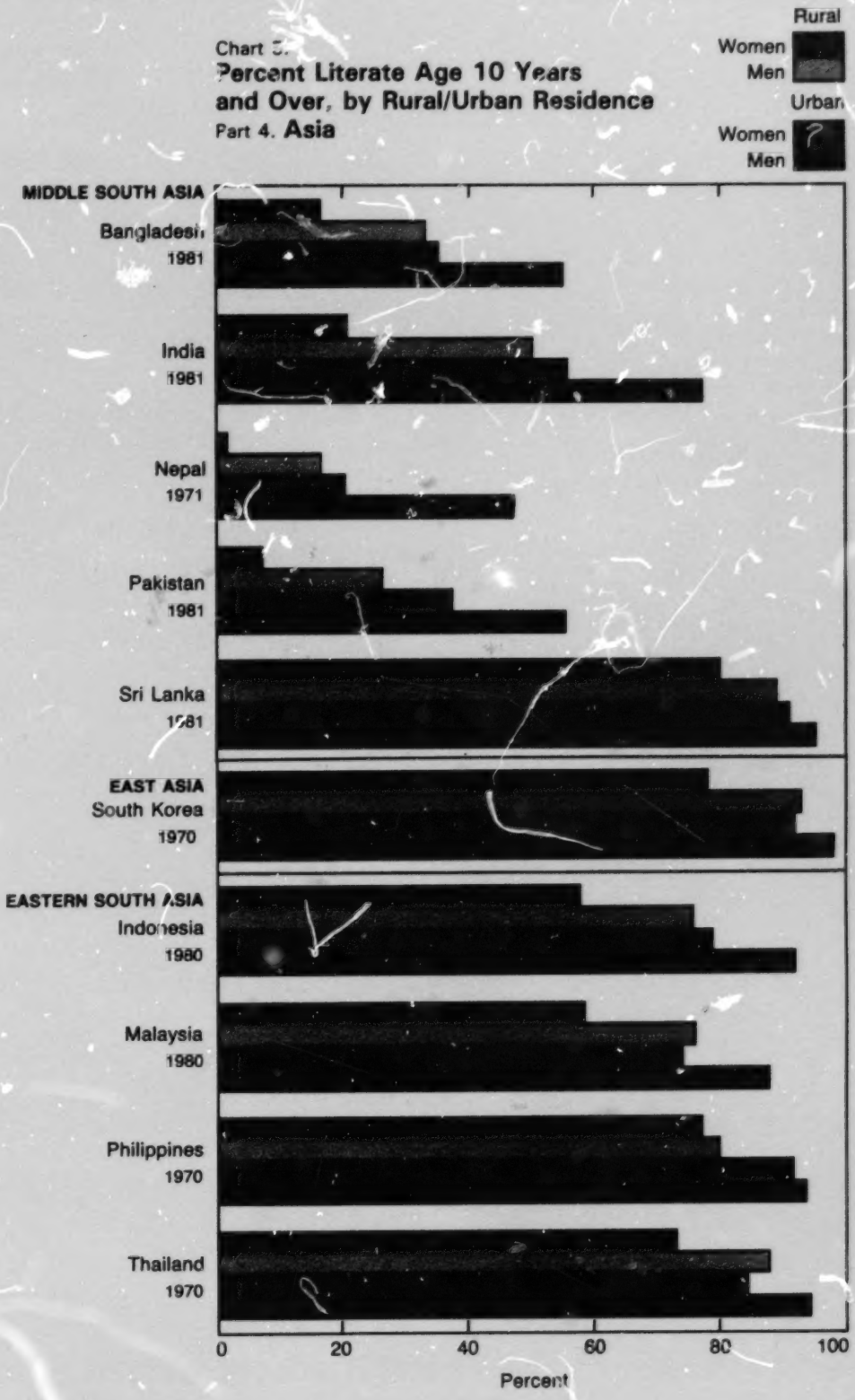


Chart 6.

Percent Literate Among Women in Selected Age Groups

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

Literacy is more prevalent among younger than older women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as is the case generally in developing regions, reflecting the greater educational opportunities of more recent times. Although data for men are not presented on this chart, such data would show a narrowing of the gender gap over time, indicating that women's literacy rates have improved more rapidly than men's rates to achieve the near-parity that exists in many countries in Latin America today.

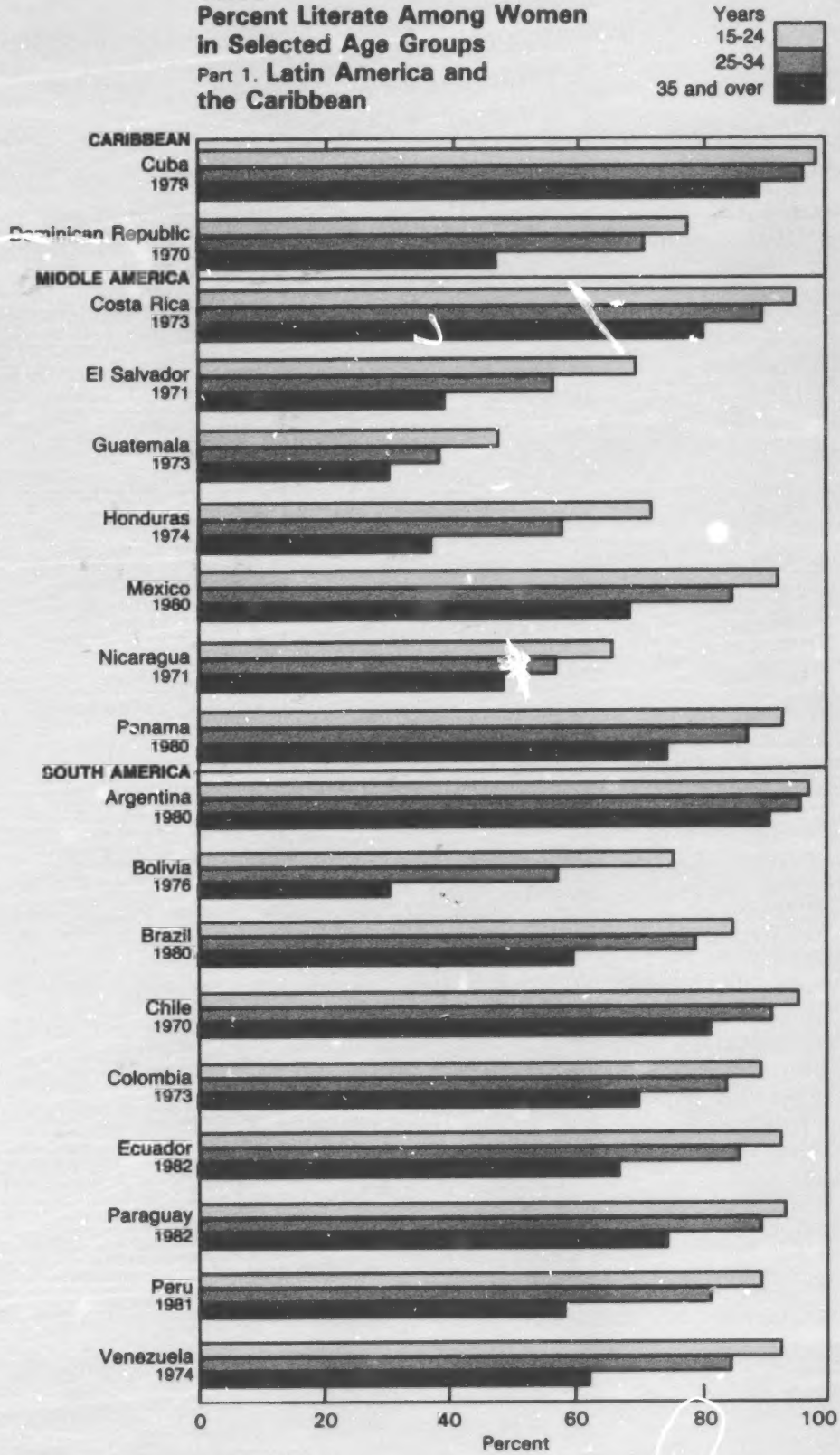


Chart 6.

Percent Literate Among Women in Selected Age Groups

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In spite of the generally low levels of literacy in Sub-Saharan Africa, the data show there are signs of improvement. As in other developing regions, each successively younger age group of women has higher literacy levels than its predecessor. The youngest age group (15 to 24 years), in particular, shows a large improvement, reflecting the efforts in recent decades to combat illiteracy in much of Africa.

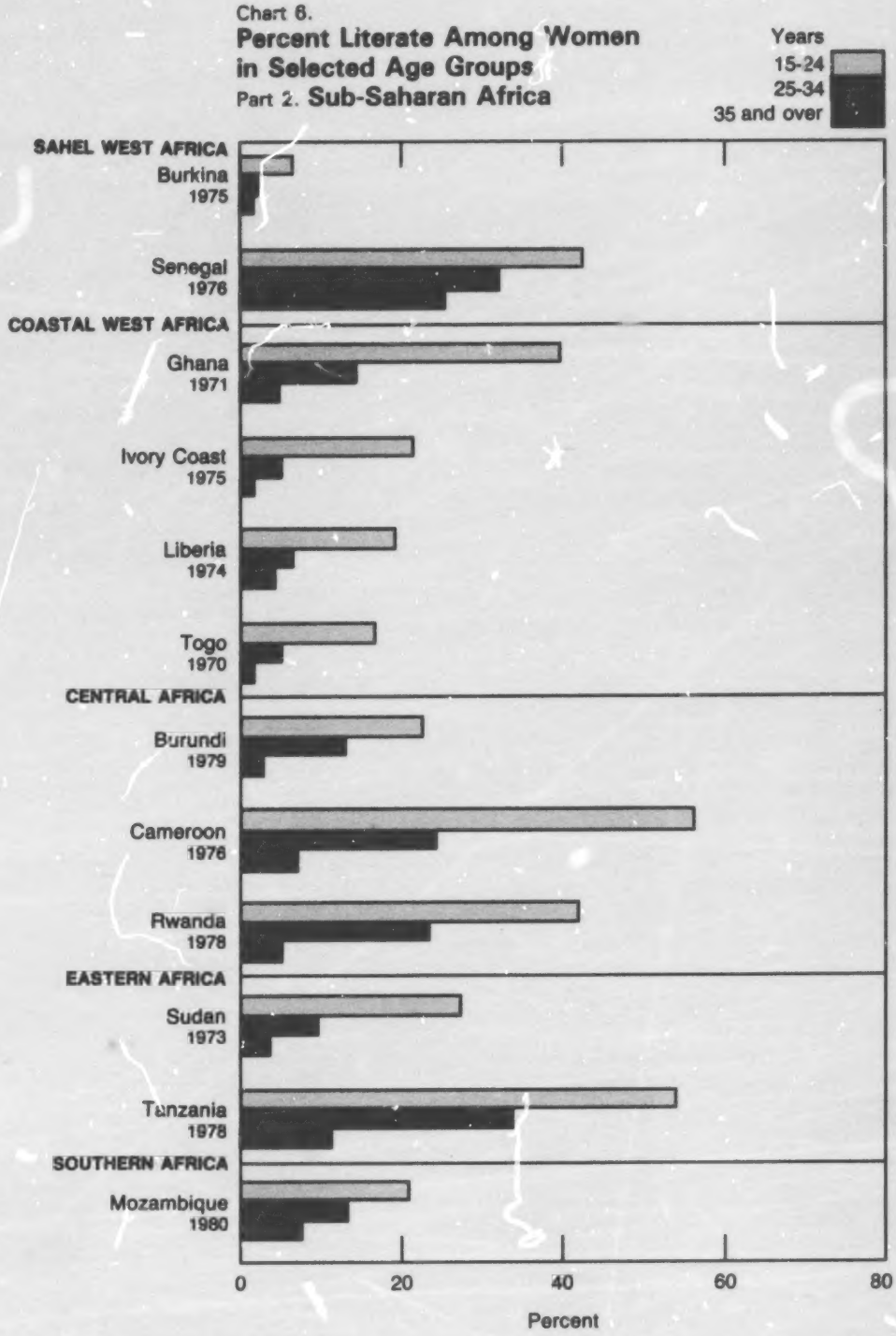


Chart 6.

Percent Literate Among Women in Selected Age Groups

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

In spite of relatively low female literacy rates overall, more young women are literate than their older counterparts in all countries of the Near East and North Africa. In most cases, improvement has been substantial, if one compares the literacy rates of women under 25 years with those of women 35 years of age and over. In several countries, more than half the younger women can read and write, but even the improved rates in many countries fall far behind the levels in much of the developing world.

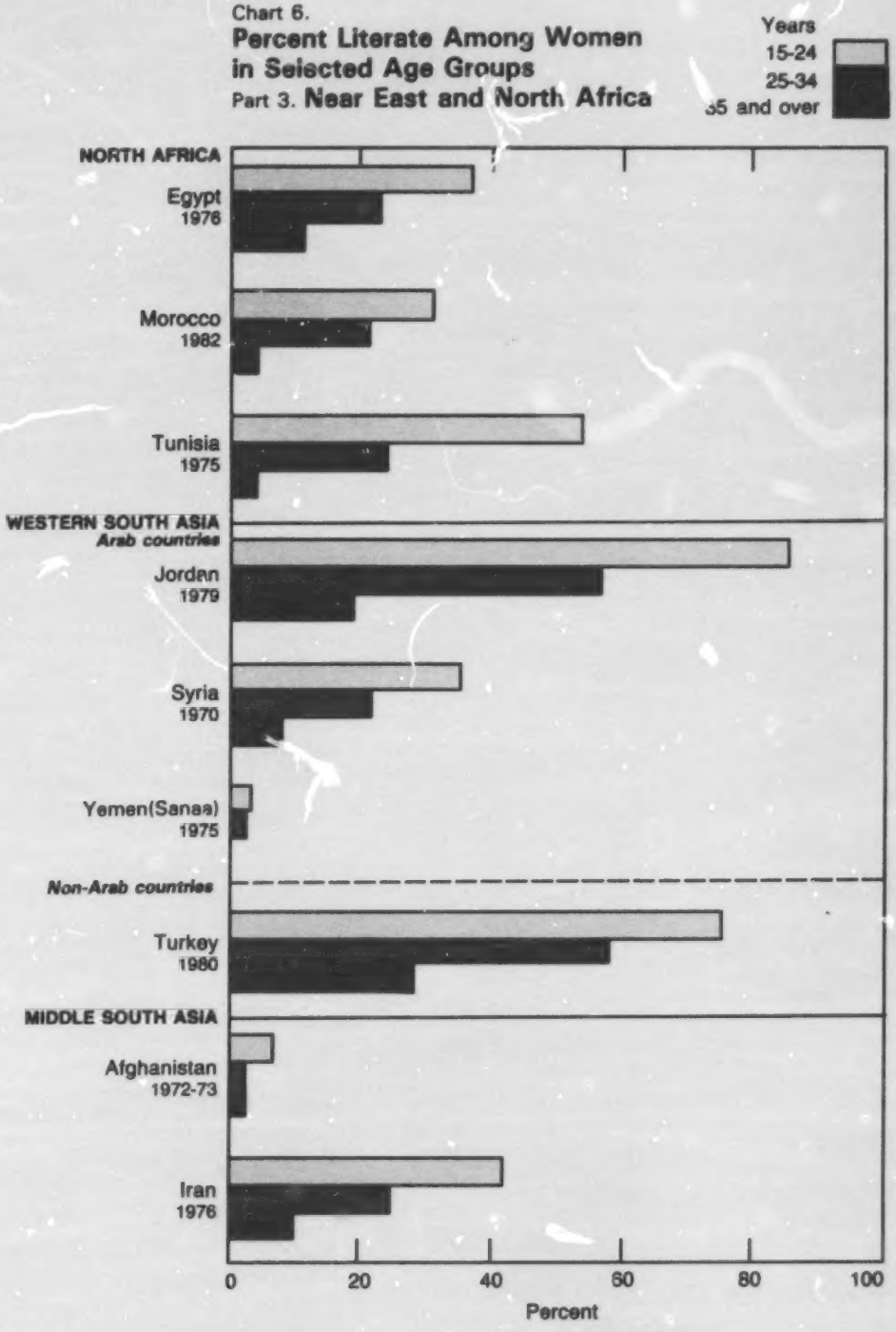


Chart 6.

Percent Literate Among Women in Selected Age Groups

Part 4. **Asia**

Improvements in women's literacy are reflected without exception by higher rates among younger than older Asian women, though in much of Middle South Asia a majority of young women remain illiterate.

Improvements in literacy levels are especially apparent in East Asia and Eastern South Asia, where literacy has been increasing for many years, as reflected by much higher rates at age 25 to 34 years compared to women in the older age group.

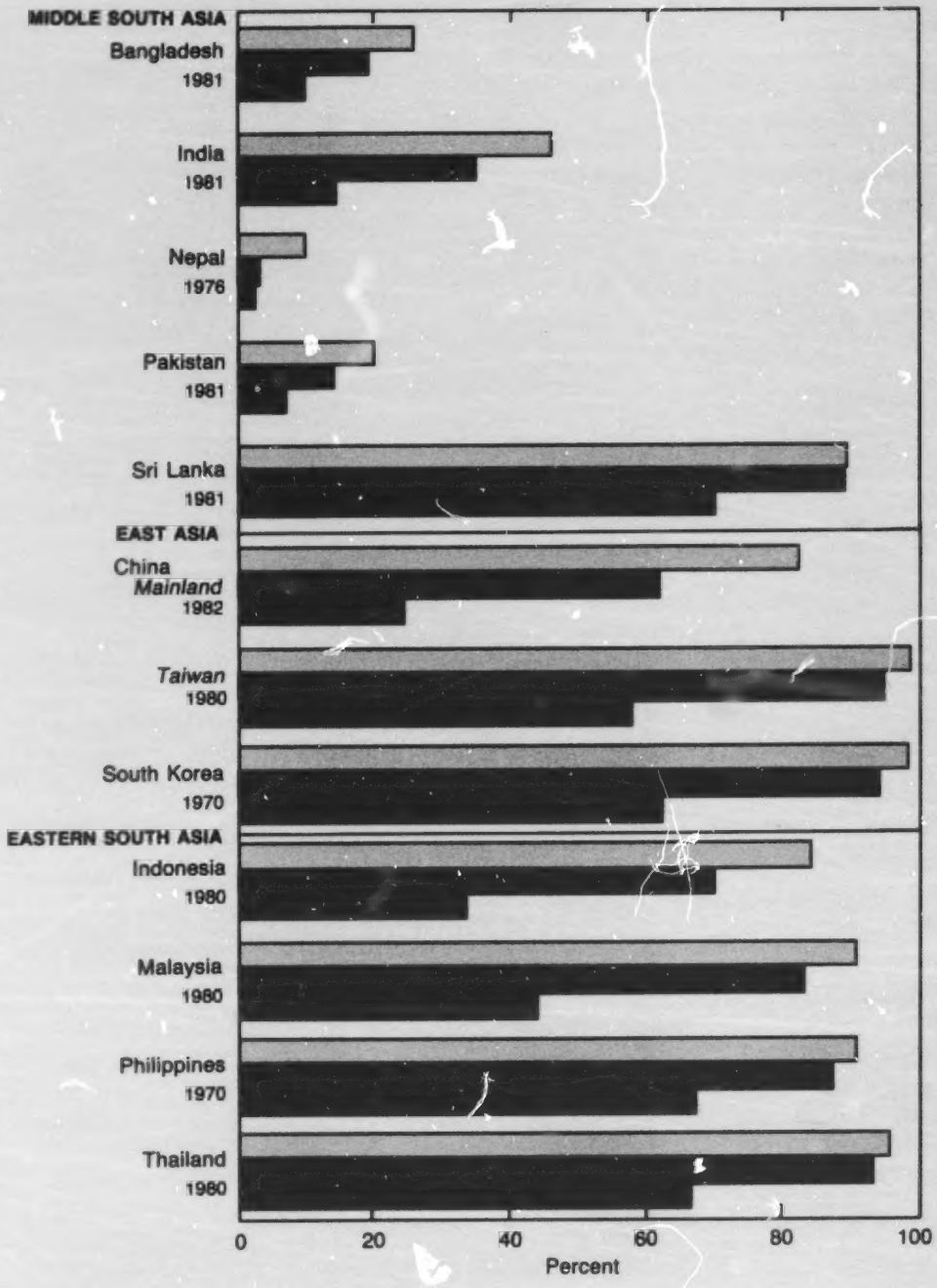


Chart 7.

Percent of Population Age 10 to 14 Years Enrolled in School

Part 1: Latin America and the Caribbean

Although there is considerable variation among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the percentage of young people enrolled in school, differences between girls' and boys' enrollment are minimal in most cases. Enrollment levels are especially high—above 80 percent of eligible children—in parts of the Caribbean and South America.

Enrollment of girls exceeds that of boys in 5 of the 19 countries shown.

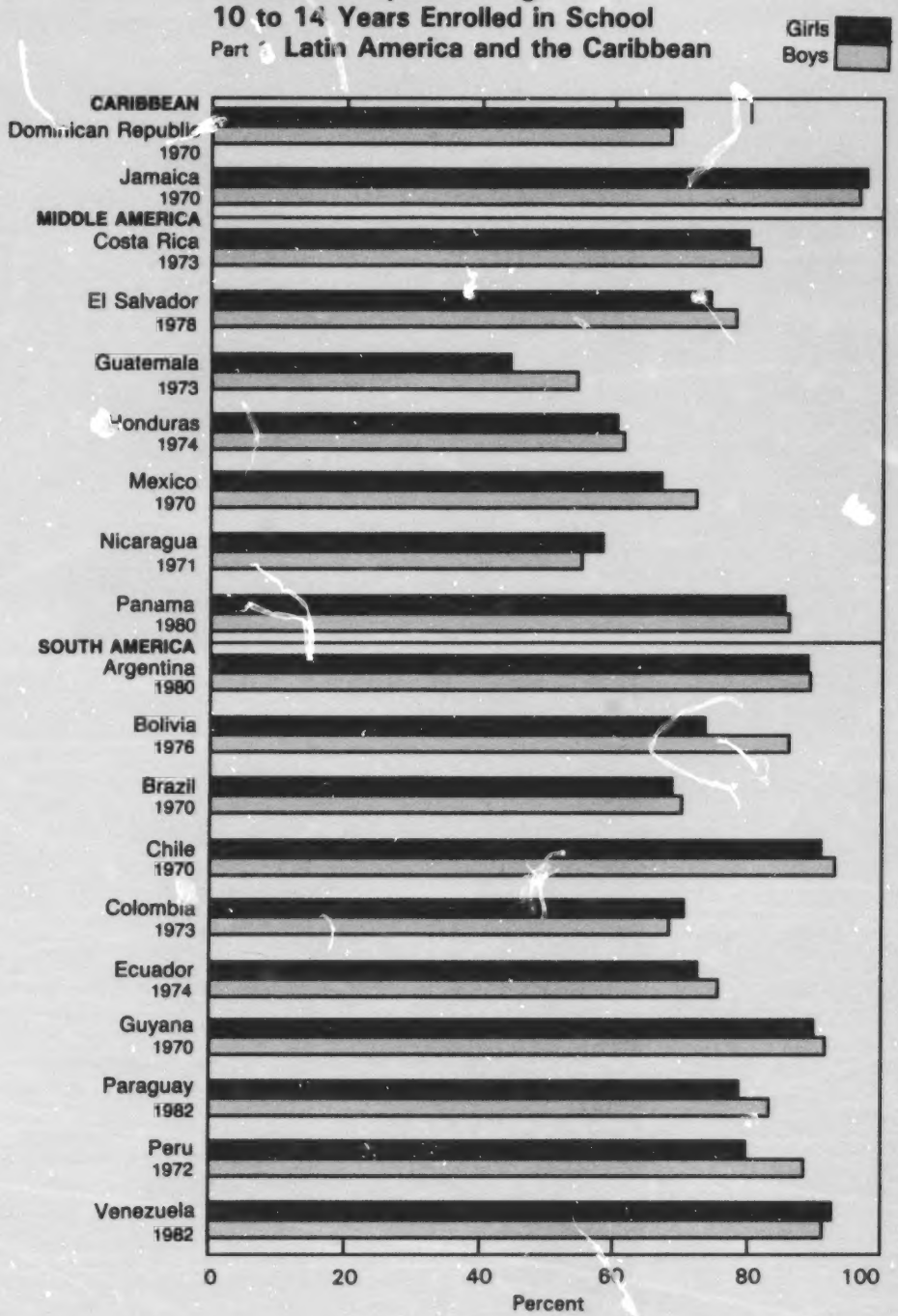


Chart 7.

Percent of Population Age 10 to 14 Years Enrolled in School

Part 2. Sub-Saharan Africa

The proportion of young people enrolled in school is highly variable among the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Enrollment of both sexes, but particularly of girls, is especially limited in Sahel West Africa but in much of East Africa it is considerably higher.

Southern Africa is unique among African subregions in that more girls than boys are enrolled in school, as boys take on an economic role early in life to replace their emigrant fathers.

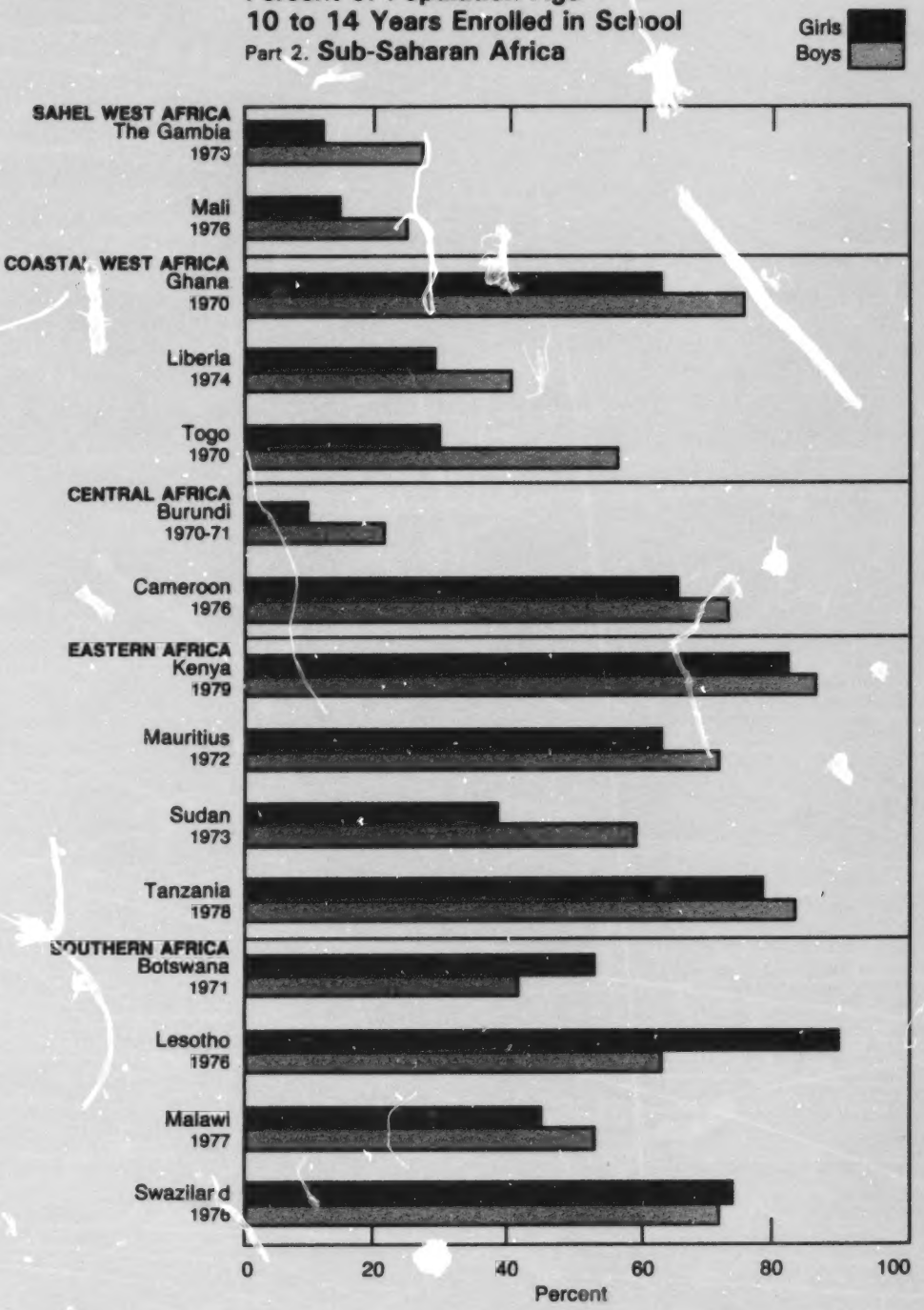


Chart 7.

Percent of Population Age 10 to 14 Years Enrolled in School

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

Patterns of school enrollment of girls and boys in the Near East and North Africa show large gaps between the sexes in most countries, with boys' enrollment exceeding girls' in every case. At least two-thirds of boys are enrolled in school in every country but one, while girls reach that level in only two of the eight countries with data.

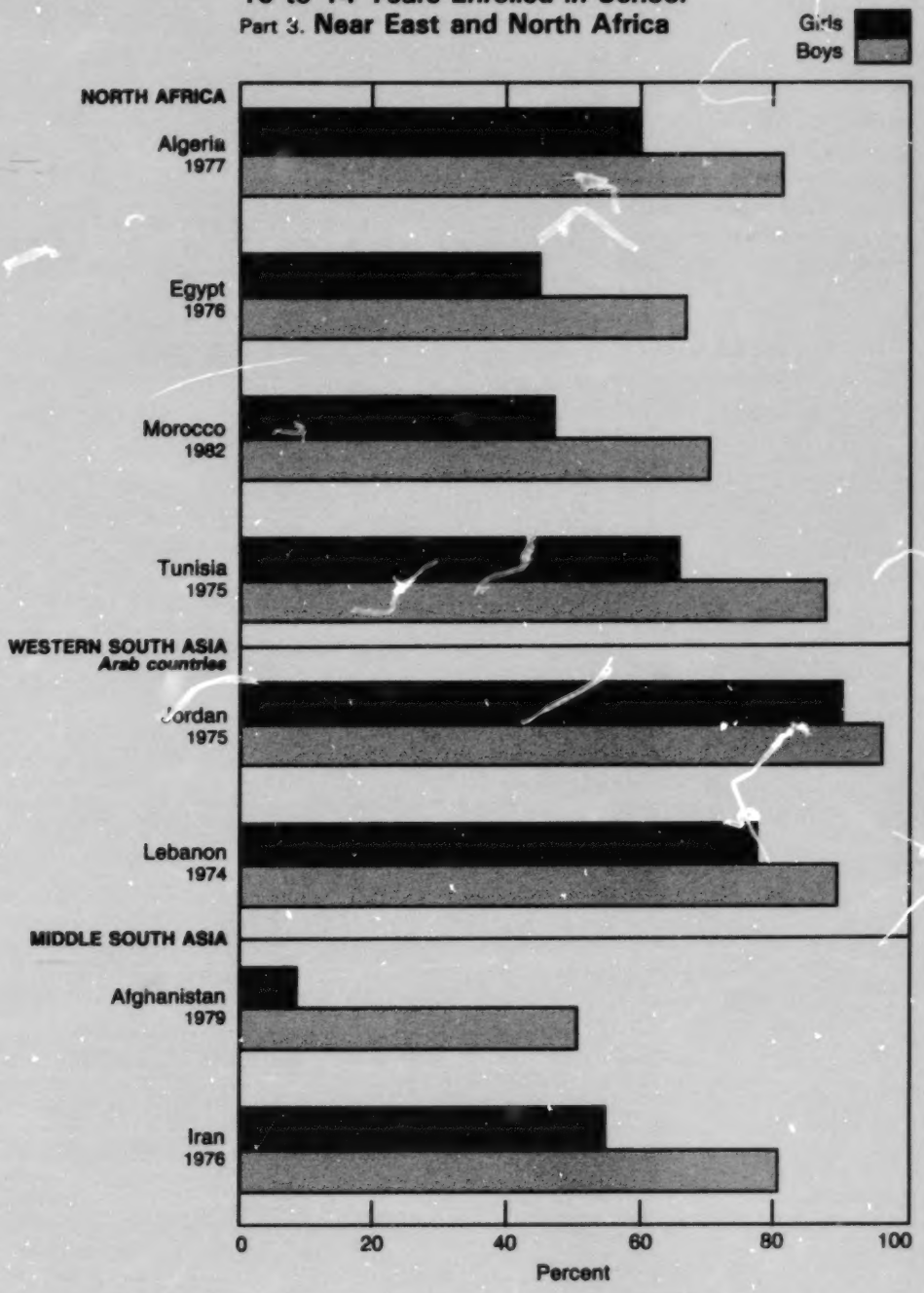


Chart 7.

Percent of Population Age 10 to 14 Years Enrolled in School

Part 4. **Asia**

The extent of enrollment of Asian girls and boys parallels fairly closely their literacy levels.

In most of Middle South Asia, there is still a large discrepancy between enrollment of girls and that of boys, and overall enrollment remains at low levels.

In East Asia and Eastern South Asia, on the other hand, a large majority of children of both sexes is now enrolled, with enrollment of girls sometimes equalling or even exceeding that of boys.

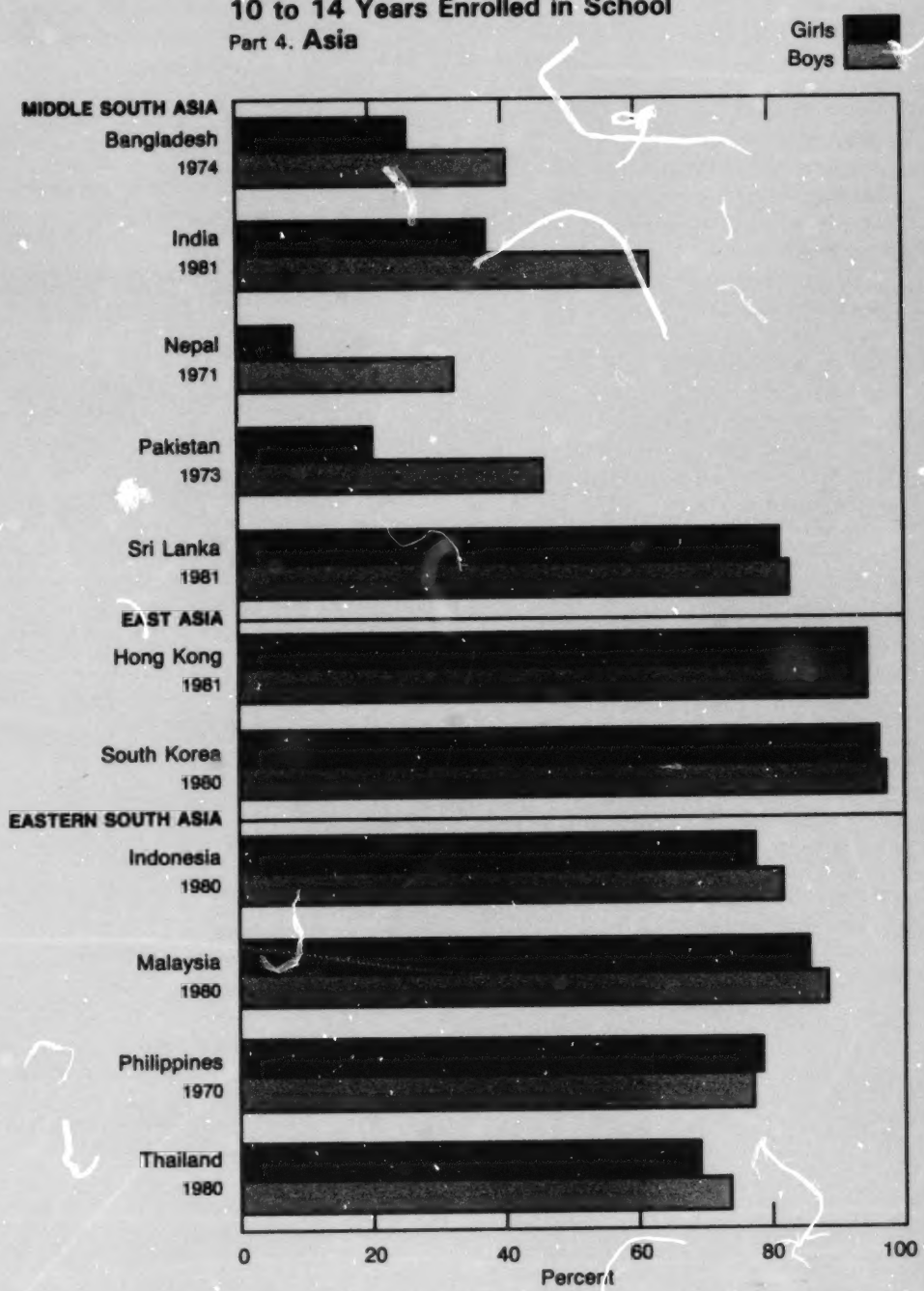
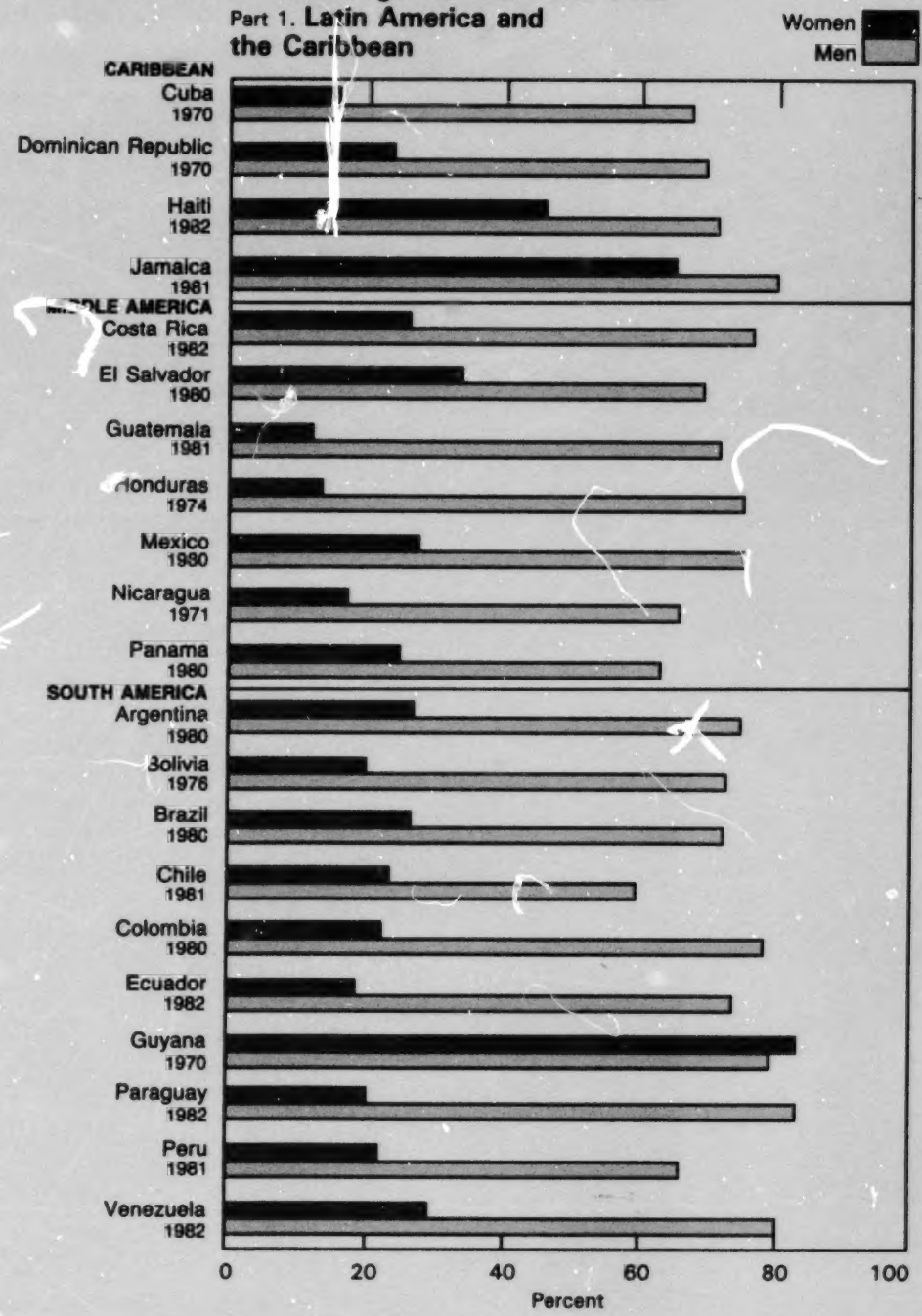


Chart 8.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women and Men Age 10 Years and Over

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean



As in many parts of the world, low reported rates of women's participation in the Latin American labor force may reflect the failure of censuses and surveys to count the activities of women in subsistence agriculture and urban informal sector jobs. As a result, caution must be exercised in interpreting differences among countries, as the discrepancies may reflect more the varying procedures of measuring economic activity than real differences in women's economic behavior.

Chart 8.
Labor Force Participation Rates for Women and Men Age 10 Years and Over
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

As in other developing regions, reported economic activity rates for women in Sub-Saharan Africa are usually much lower than those reported for men. In a few countries, women's rates appear to be extraordinarily high. This great variability in activity rates may be attributable more to differing labor force enumeration procedures in the censuses and surveys of African countries than to real differences in women's activity.

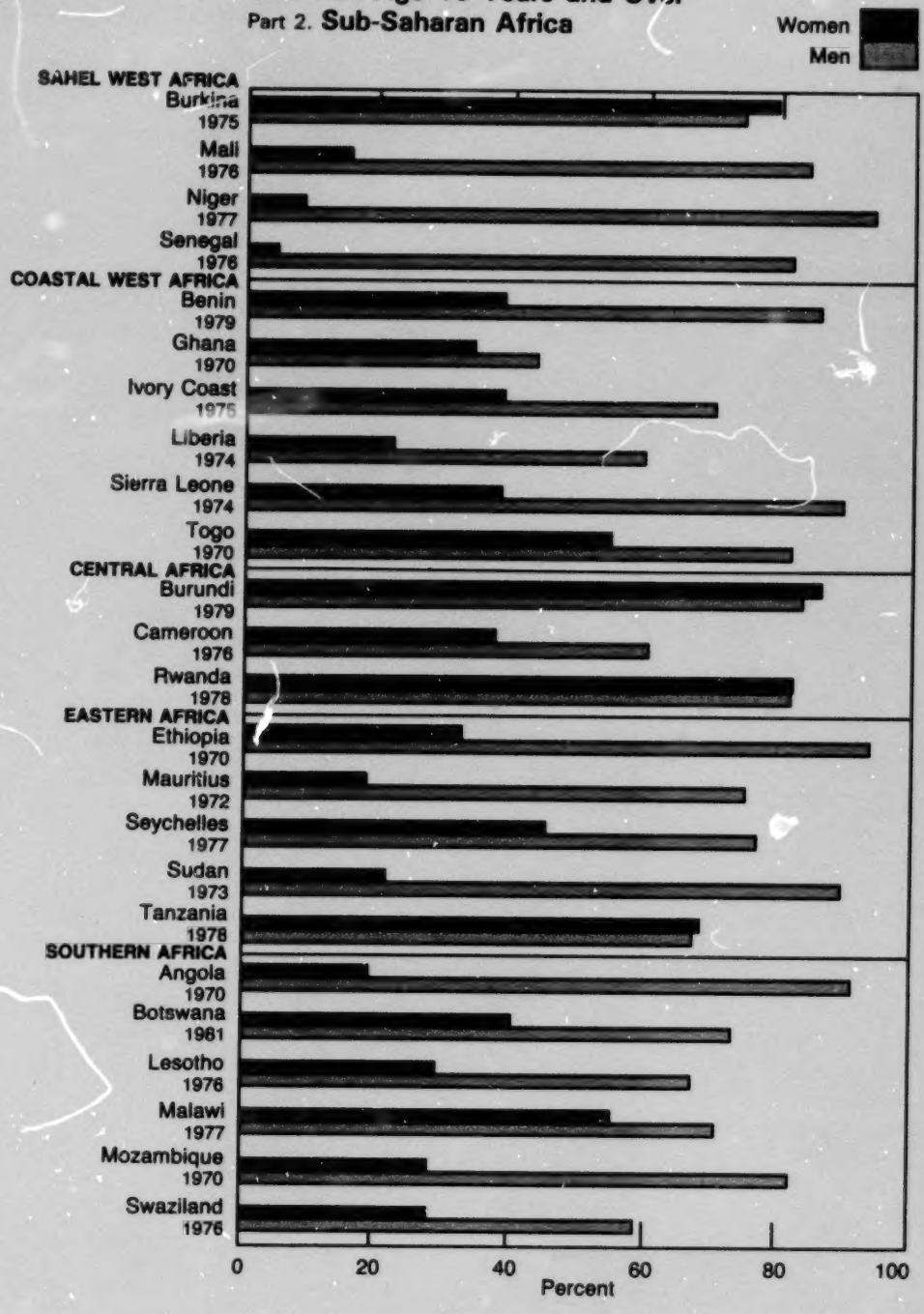


Chart 8.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women and Men Age 10 Years and Over

Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

In most of the countries of the Near East and North Africa, only a small proportion of women are reported to be economically active, as opposed to the typically high rates for men. As in other developing regions, a large part of the difference may be attributable to labor force concepts and enumeration procedures that exclude many of the activities that women are involved in. With one exception in Western South Asia, women's reported labor force participation in this region is among the lowest in the world.

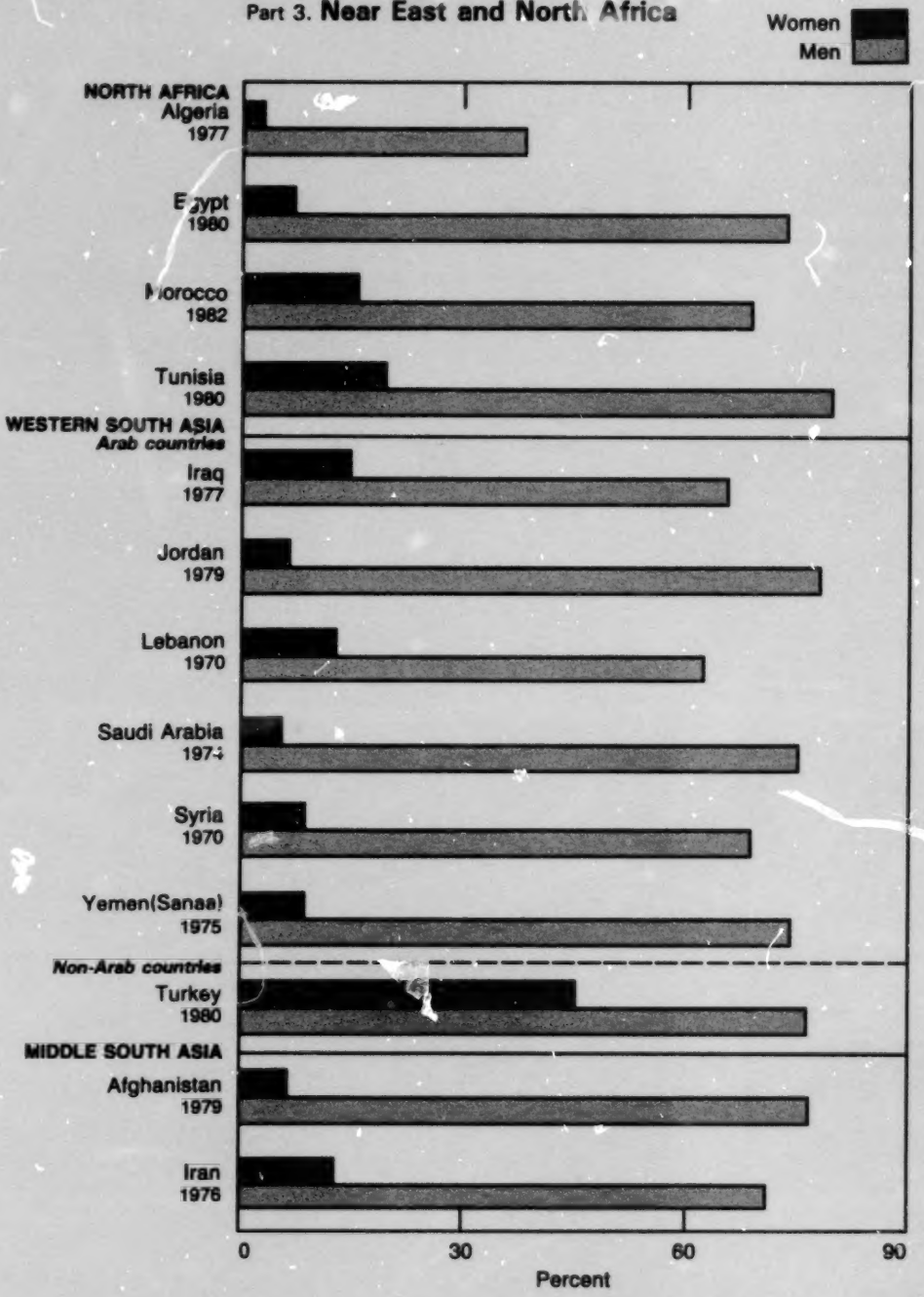


Chart 8.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women and Men Age 10 Years and Over

Part 4. **Asia**

As in other developing regions, norms in Asian countries often do not promote the reporting of women's work as constituting a formal part of the labor force, and the resulting statistics show a large discrepancy between female and male participation rates.

These rates are especially low for women in Middle South Asia. In East Asia and Eastern South Asia, women's reported labor force activity reaches much higher levels but remains far below the rates for men.

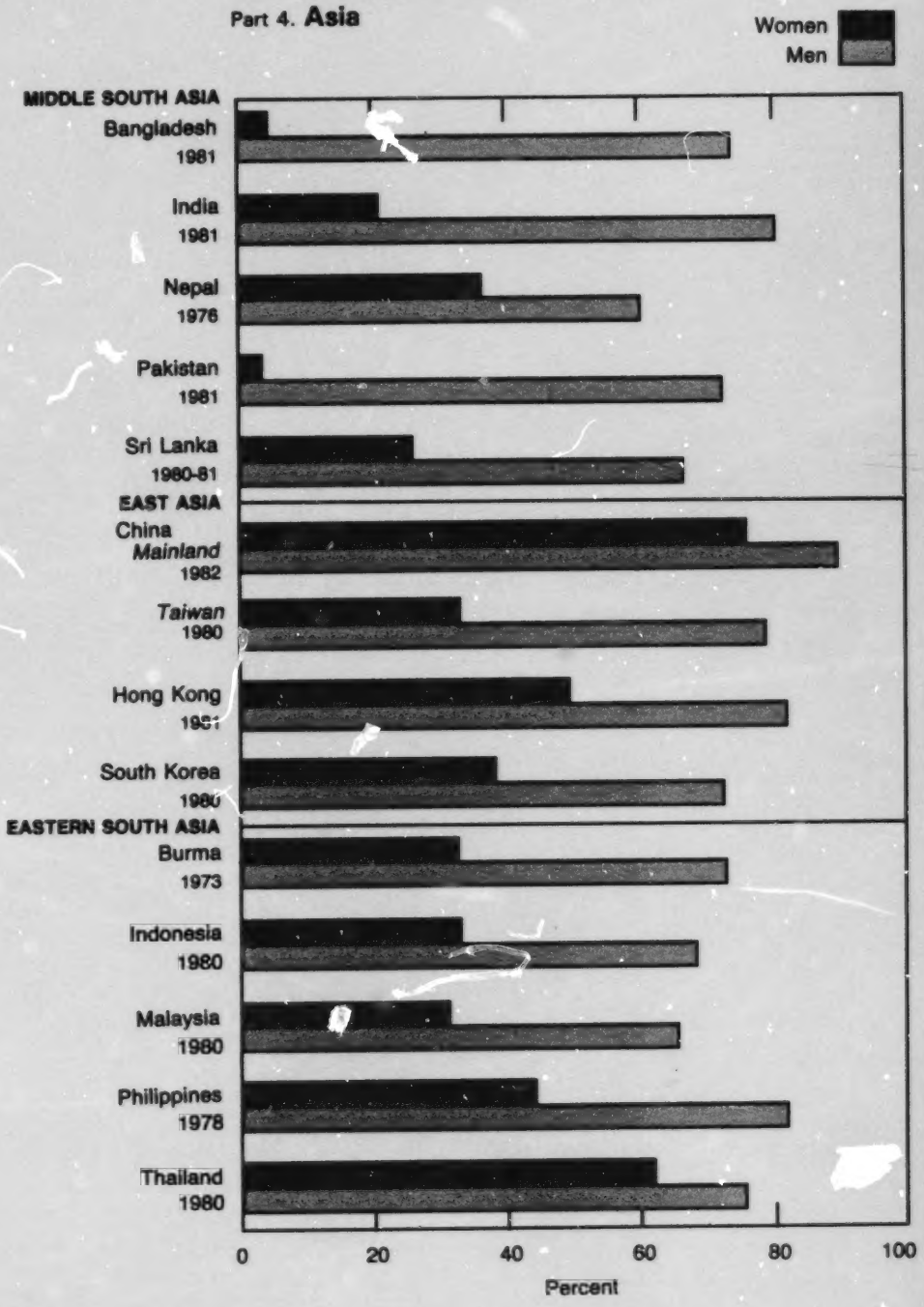


Chart 9.

Women's and Men's Share of Labor Force Age 10 Years and Over

Part 1. **Latin America and the Caribbean**

When women's reported economic activity is viewed as a proportion of the total labor force, the female share falls between 20 and 30 percent in a majority of Latin American countries.

In parts of the Caribbean, definitions of women's activities are more comprehensive, and women's reported share of the labor force is much larger.

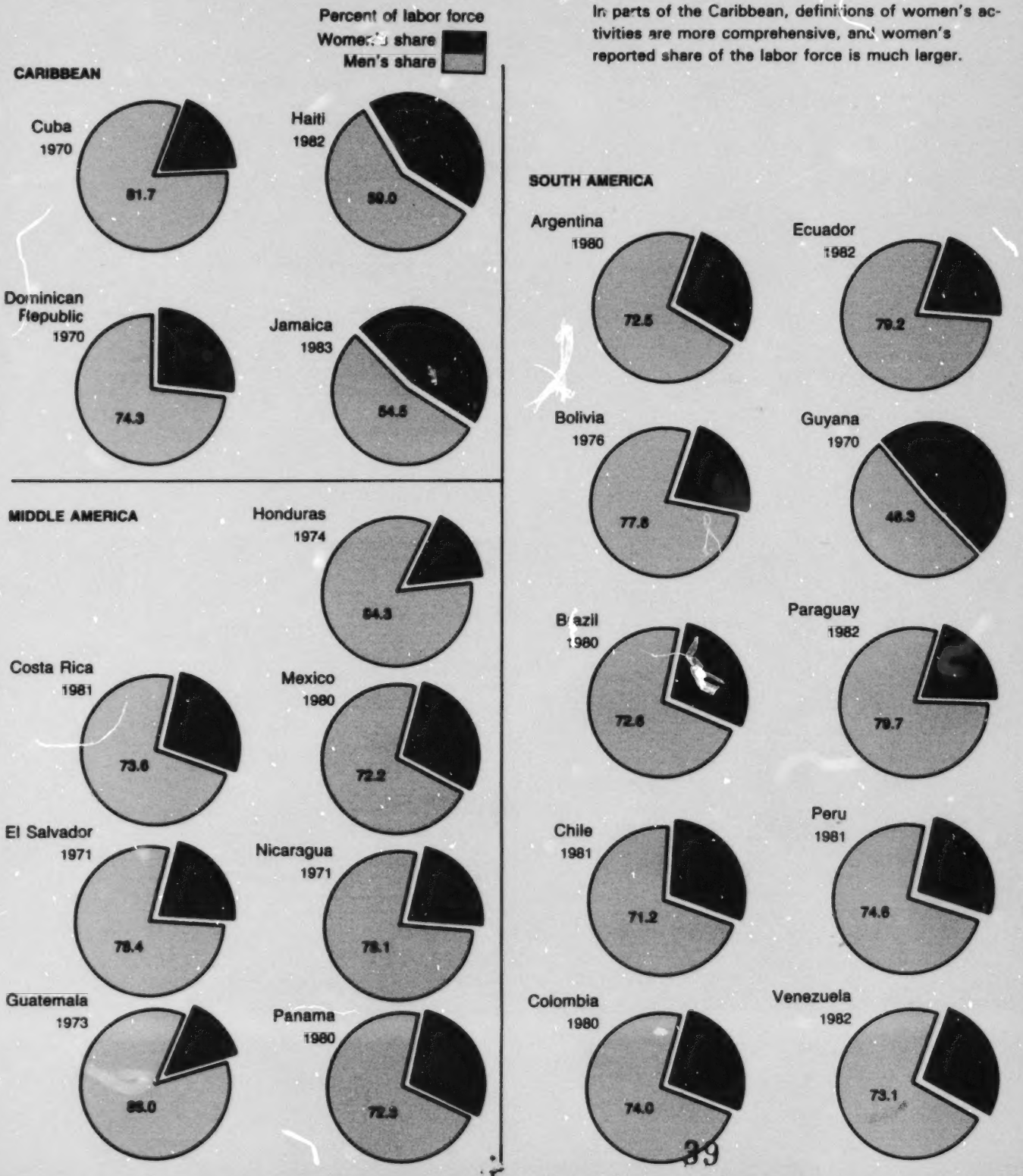


Chart 9.

Women's and Men's Share of Labor Force Age 10 Years and Over

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Women's share of the labor force appears to be highly variable among the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Although the countries do differ from one another in a number of respects, it is highly probable that a large part of the variation results from differing procedures in deciding just who is to be included in the concept of labor force. Some of the factors that cause the variation are differences in the ages of persons for whom data are gathered and how unpaid family workers are classified.

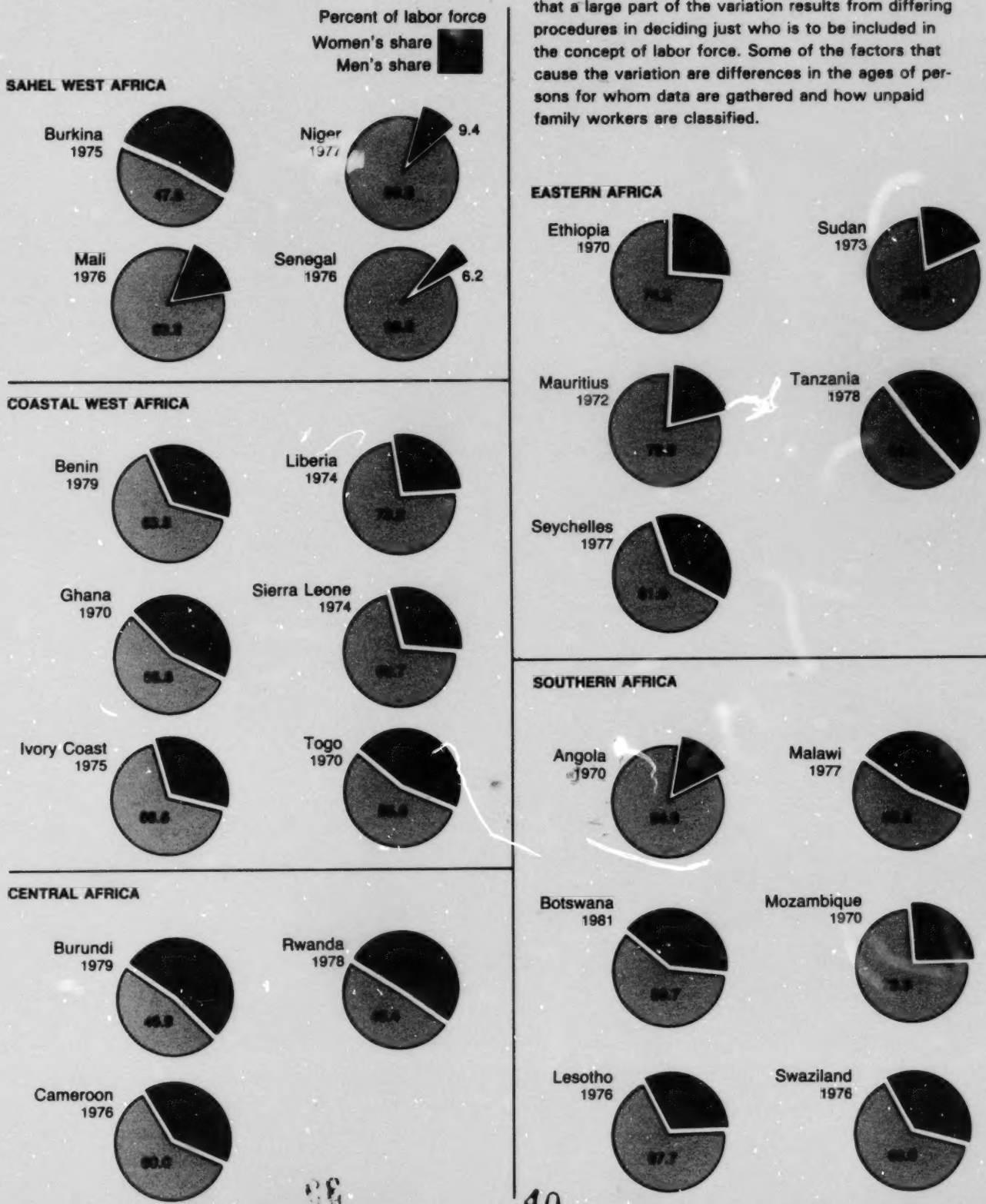


Chart 9.
Women's and Men's Share of Labor Force Age 10 Years and Over
Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

In line with the generally low reported labor force participation rates of women in the Near East and North Africa, women's share of the total labor force is shown to be minimal in most of the countries. A revision of labor force concepts to include more of women's agricultural activities would undoubtedly result in a changed picture, with women's share becoming substantially larger than the present data indicate.

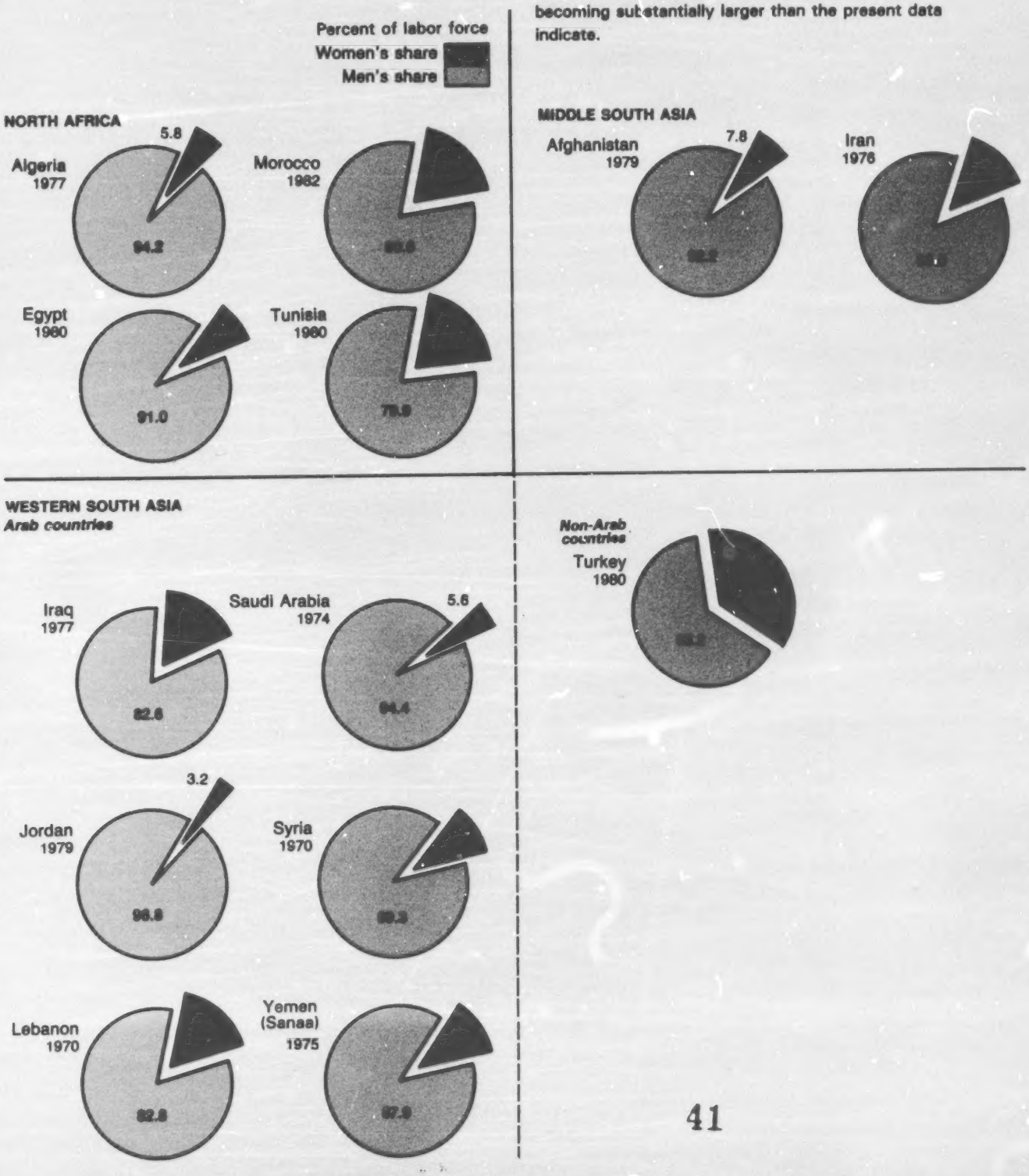


Chart 9.

Women's and Men's Share of Labor Force Age 10 Years and Over

Part 4. **Asia**

When women's reported economic activity is seen as a share of the total labor force, there is a large range of variation among the Asian countries, from a scant 4 to 5 percent of the labor force in parts of Middle South Asia to a more substantial third of the labor force in several Eastern South Asian countries. In one instance, women comprise nearly half of the total labor force.

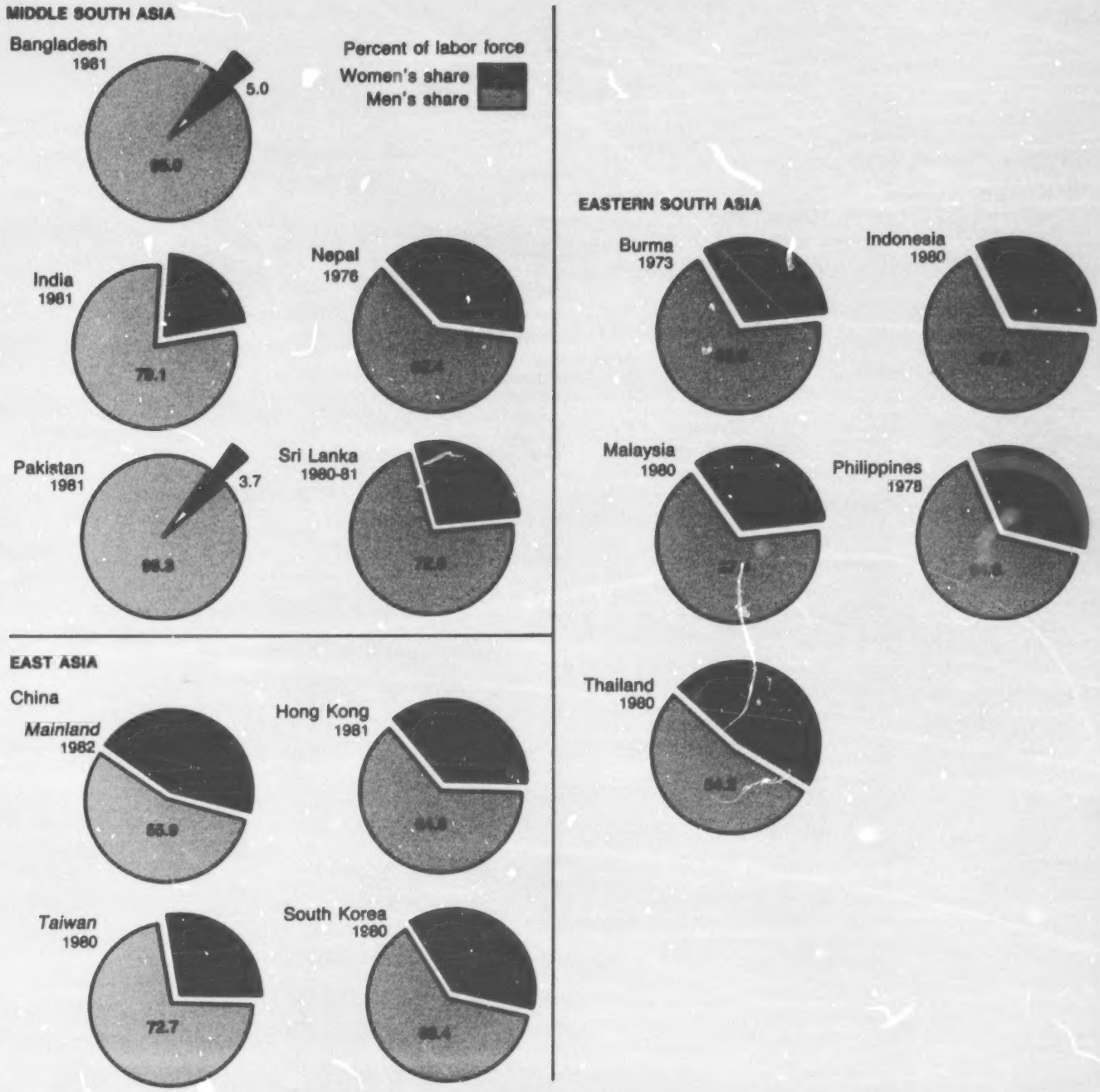


Chart 10.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women Age 20 to 29 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

The tendency for young Latin American and Caribbean women to migrate to the towns and cities for work is evident in the data showing labor force participation rates for women age 20 to 29 years in rural and urban areas. Economic activity rates of these young women reach or exceed 40 percent in urban areas in fully half the countries, while rural participation usually falls between 10 and 30 percent.

This region is unique in the developing world in the concentration of women in the urban labor force. However, many young women who come to the city work as domestic servants or hold other low-paying jobs.

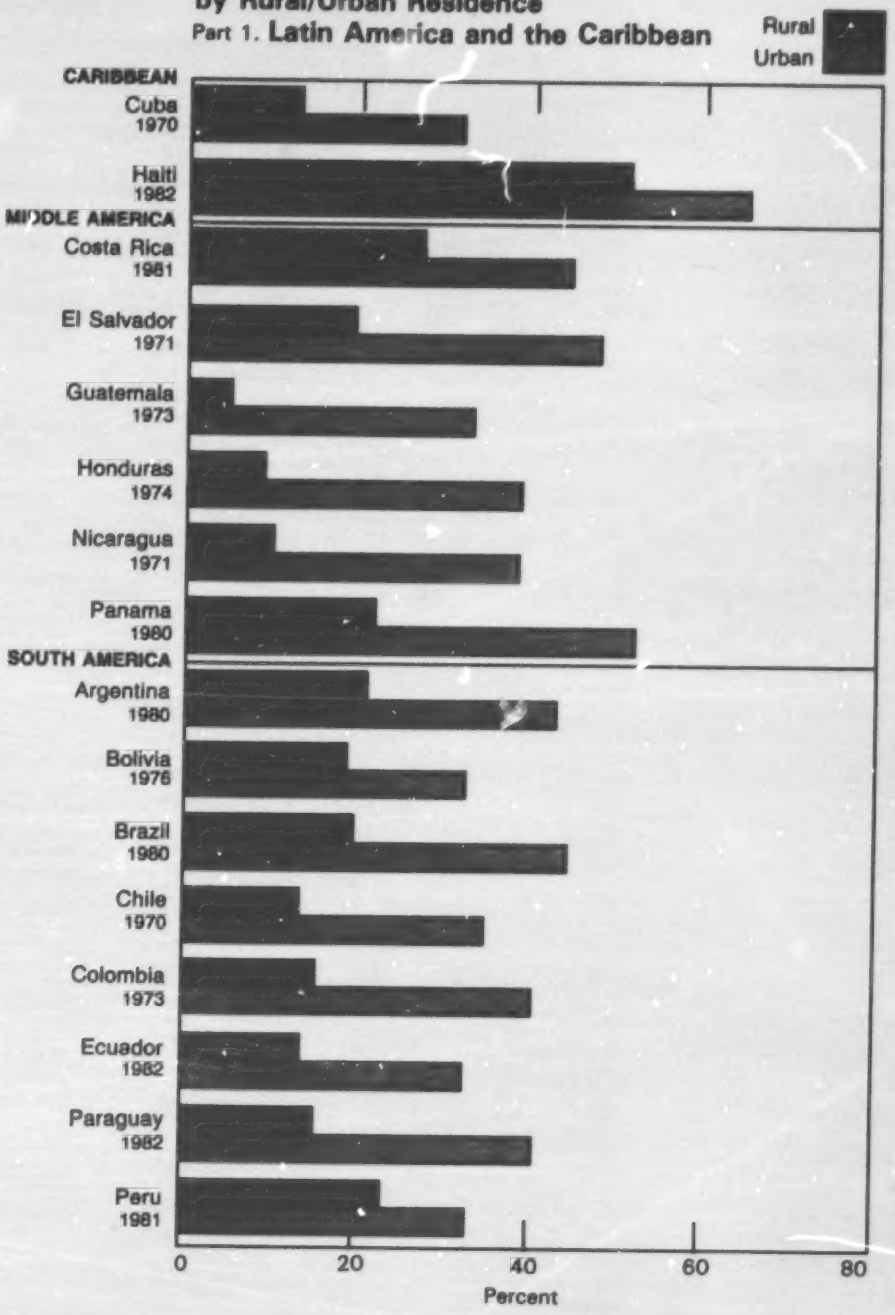


Chart 10.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women Age 20 to 29 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 2. Sub-Saharan Africa

Opportunities for African women to participate in modern sector employment are limited. Without exception, young women in urban areas record lower labor force participation rates than their rural counterparts.

While labor force participation rates of young women are often higher than the average for women of all ages, a majority of urban women are not counted as economically active in most countries. Largely because of differing labor force definitions, rates are highly variable, even among countries within a subregion.

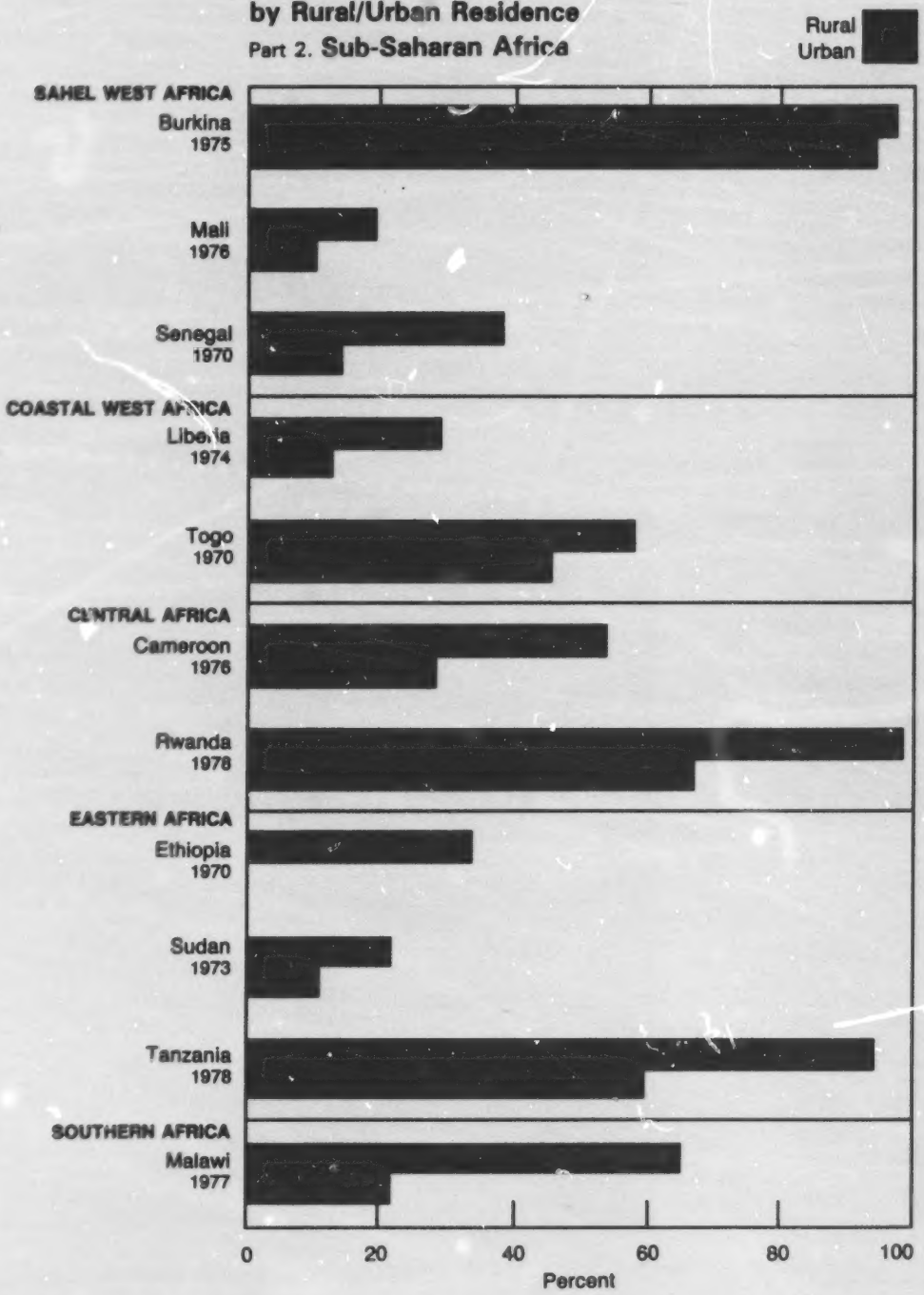


Chart 10.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women Age 20 to 29 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

Although reported participation in the labor force in the Near East and North Africa region is higher among women in their early twenties than among women generally, rates are still rather low compared to those in other developing regions. There is no consistent pattern between rural and urban areas—in some countries, participation of young women is higher in the countryside and, in others, it is higher in the towns and cities.

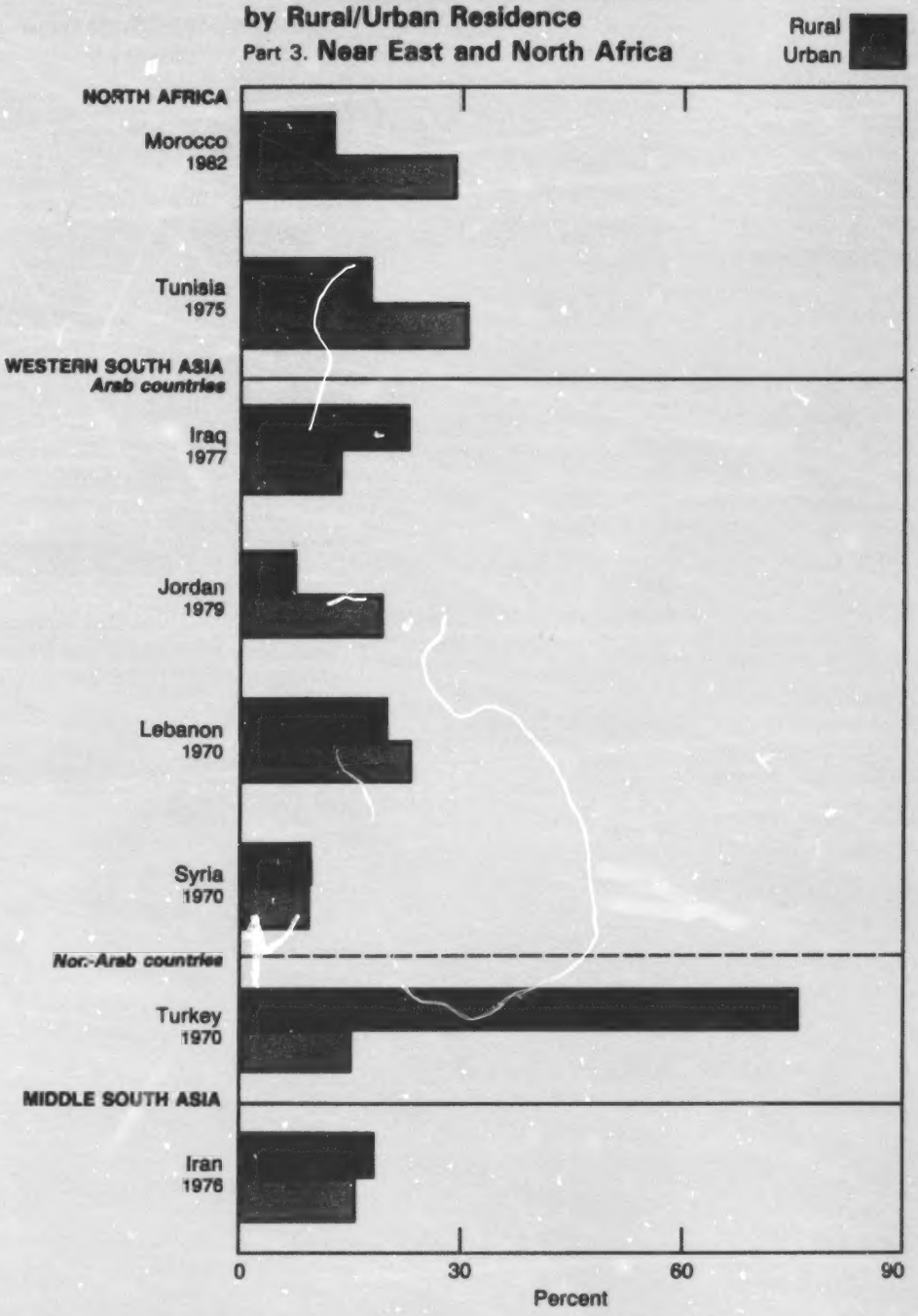


Chart 10.

Labor Force Participation Rates for Women Age 20 to 29 Years by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 4. **Asia**

Among Asian women in their twenties, labor force participation may be higher in urban or in rural areas, depending on the country. Overall participation of women in this age group is usually higher than for women of all ages (seen in chart 8), especially in those countries where their rural economic activity is predominant.

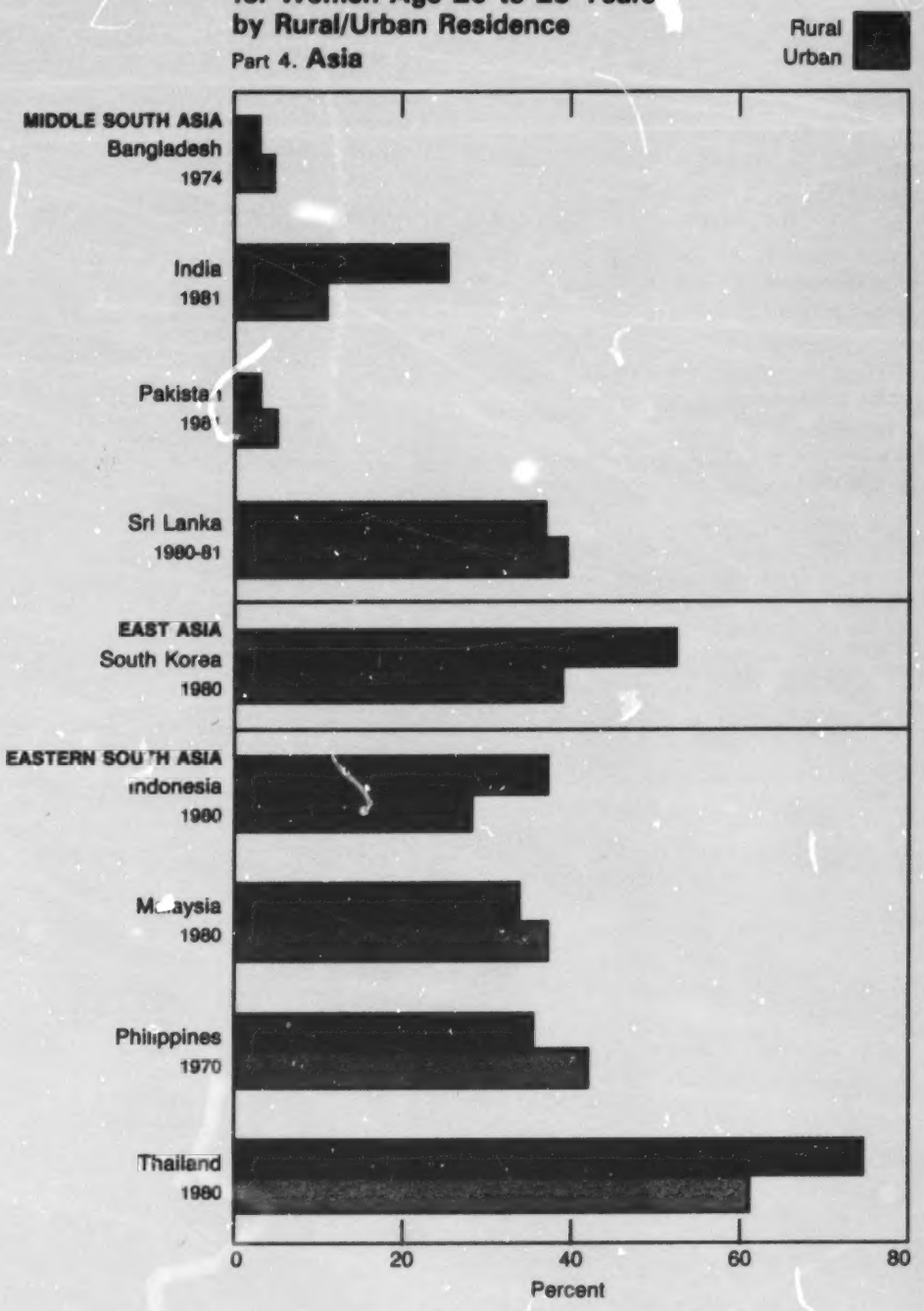


Chart 11.

Percent Single Among Women Age 20 to 24 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

The percent of women who are still single at age 20 to 24 years is usually higher in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean than in most other developing regions. This is especially true in urban areas, where at least 40 percent are single in this age group in most countries of the region.

The pattern of later marriage in urban than in rural areas is typical of all developing regions, but the actual percent single in the age group varies considerably throughout the world.

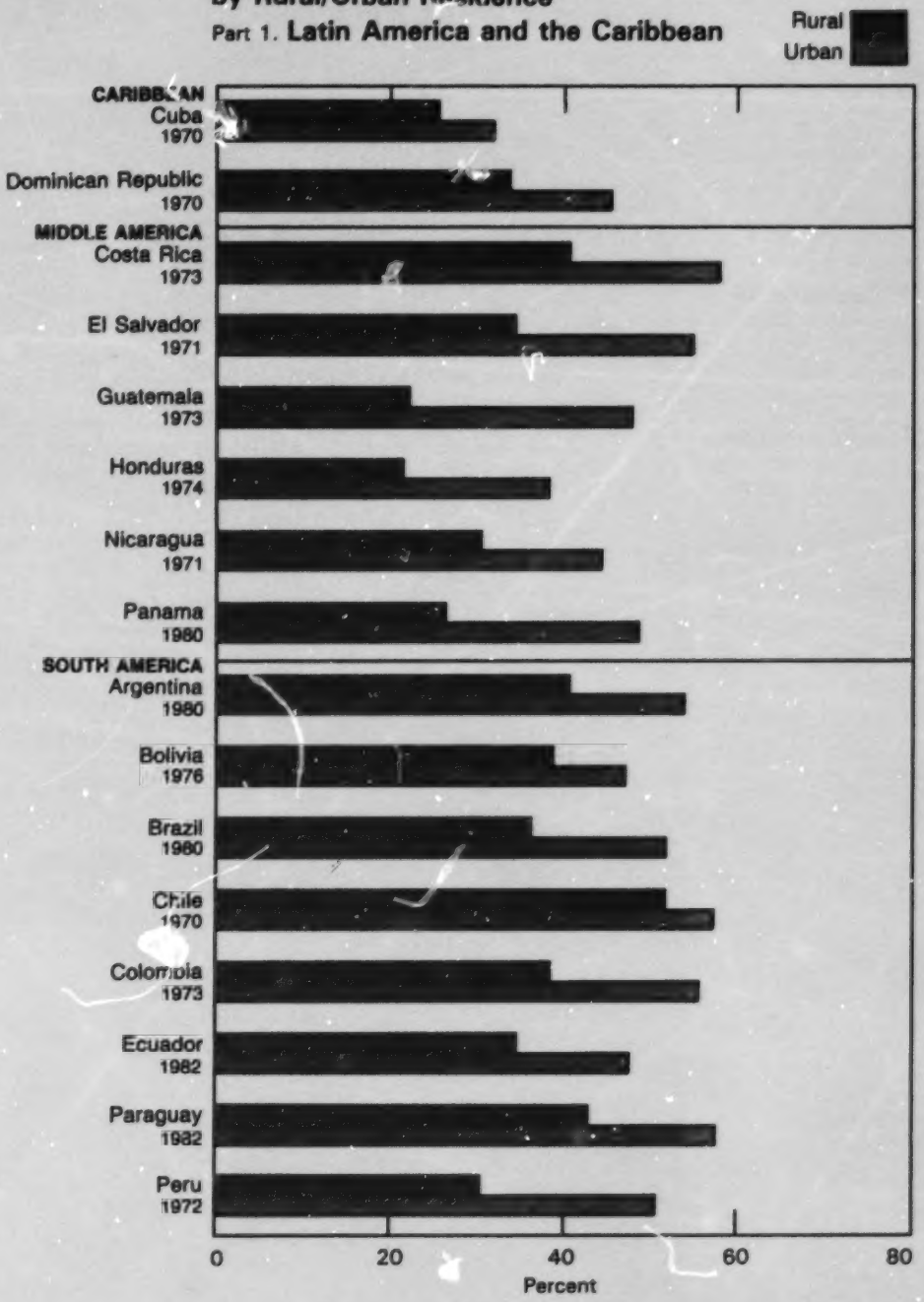


Chart 11.

Percent Single Among Women Age 20 to 24 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Women marry at a young age in most of Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Sahel West Africa.

Throughout the region, more women are still single at age 20 to 24 years in urban than rural areas, suggesting that urban women may have some alternatives not open to women in the countryside.

In parts of Southern Africa, where men frequently emigrate, women tend to remain single until more advanced ages than elsewhere on the continent.

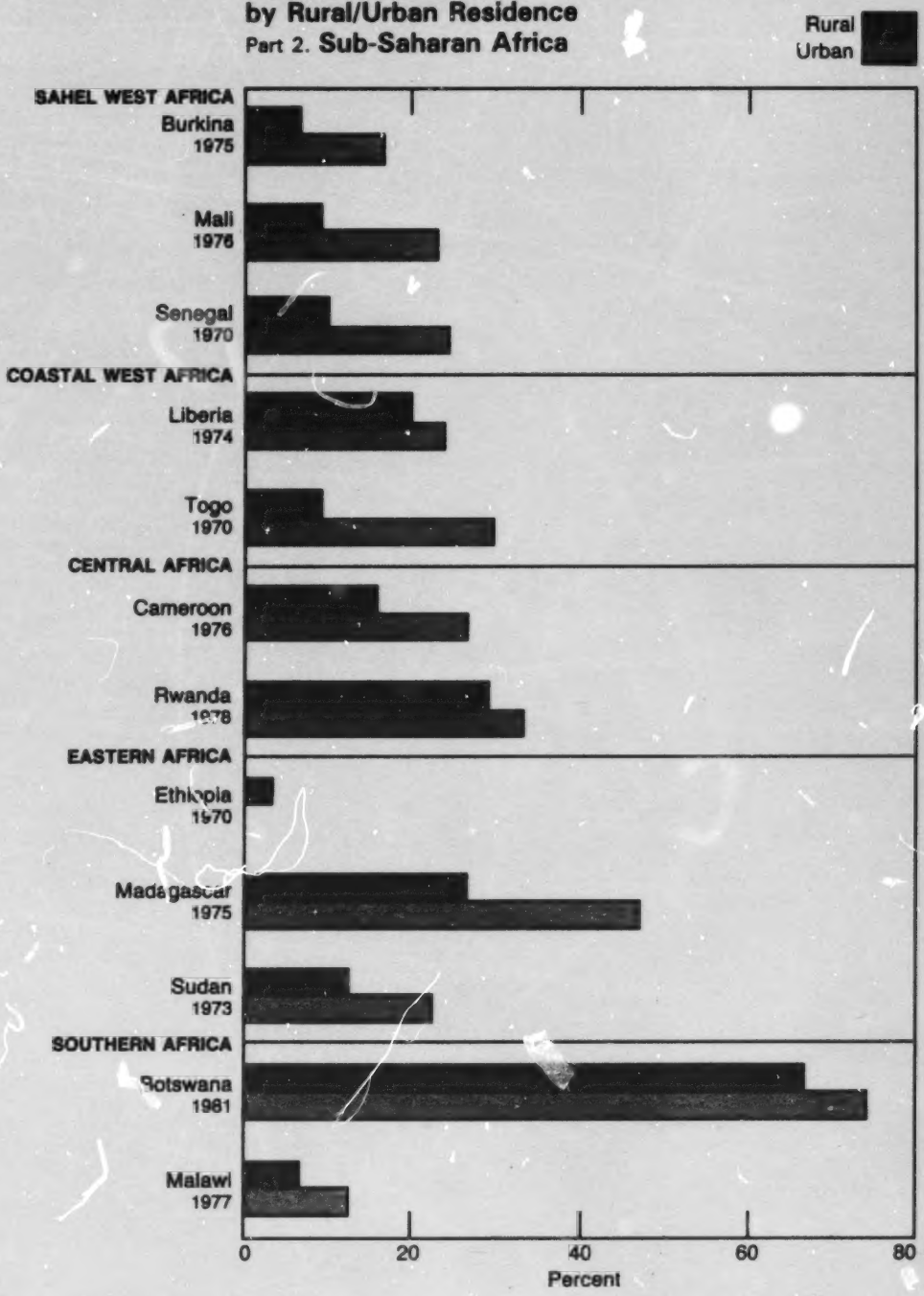


Chart 11.

Percent Single Among Women Age 20 to 24 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence

Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

As in other regions, the proportion of women still single at age 20 to 24 years is smaller in rural than urban areas in most countries of the Near East and North Africa, reflecting the younger age at marriage in the countryside.

Although nearly all women marry eventually, a substantial proportion is still single in their early twenties.

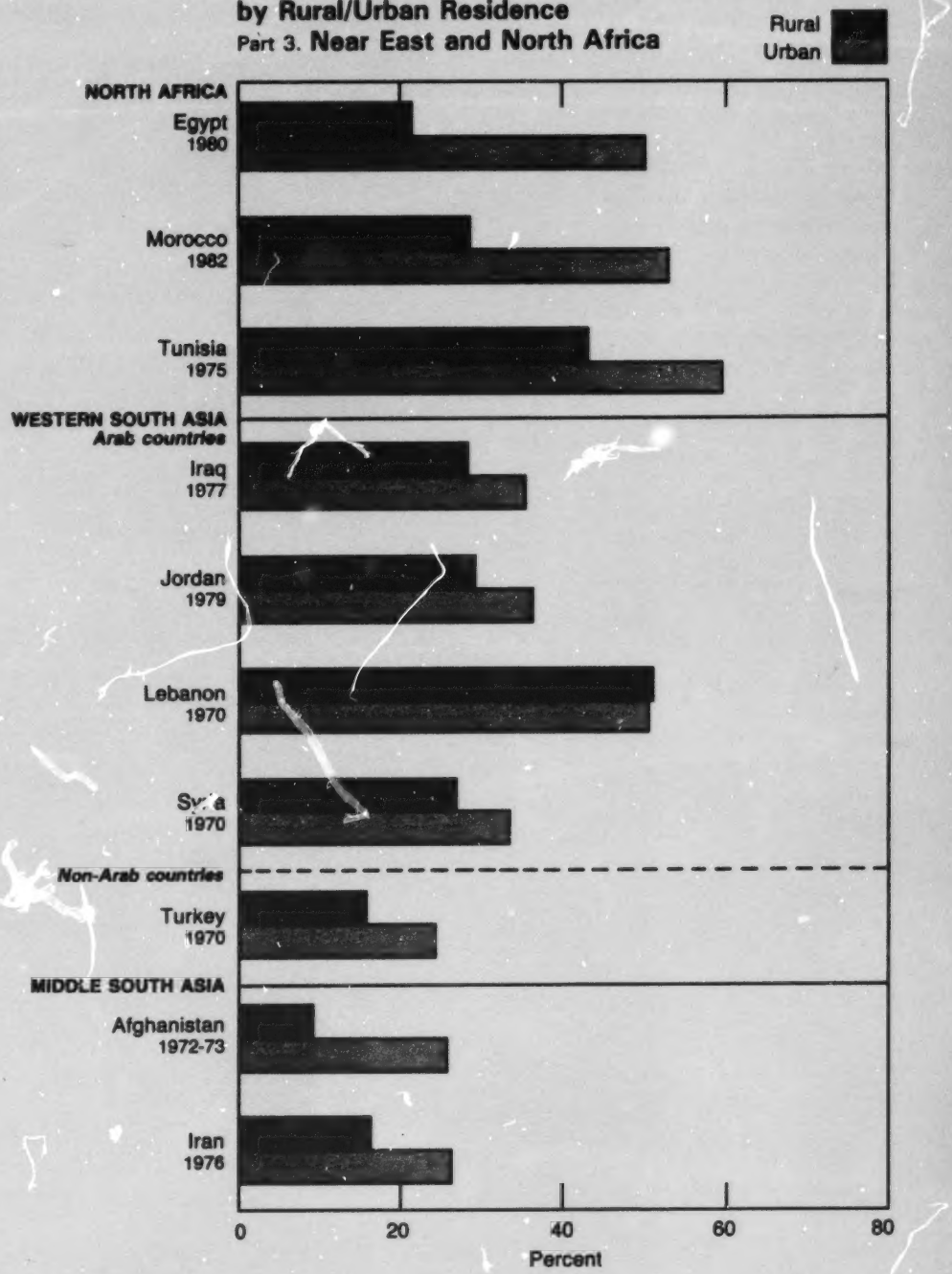


Chart 11.
Percent Single Among Women Age 20 to 24 Years, by Rural/Urban Residence
Part 4. **Asia**

Women marry young in much of Middle South Asia, as reflected by the small proportion still single at age 20 to 24 years. This is particularly true in rural areas, where the proportion single in this age group is only half that in urban areas, which afford more educational and work opportunities for young women to pursue prior to marriage.

In East Asia and Eastern South Asia as well, women marry at younger ages in the countryside than in the towns and cities, but in general marriage takes place at relatively older ages in these subregions than in Middle South Asia.

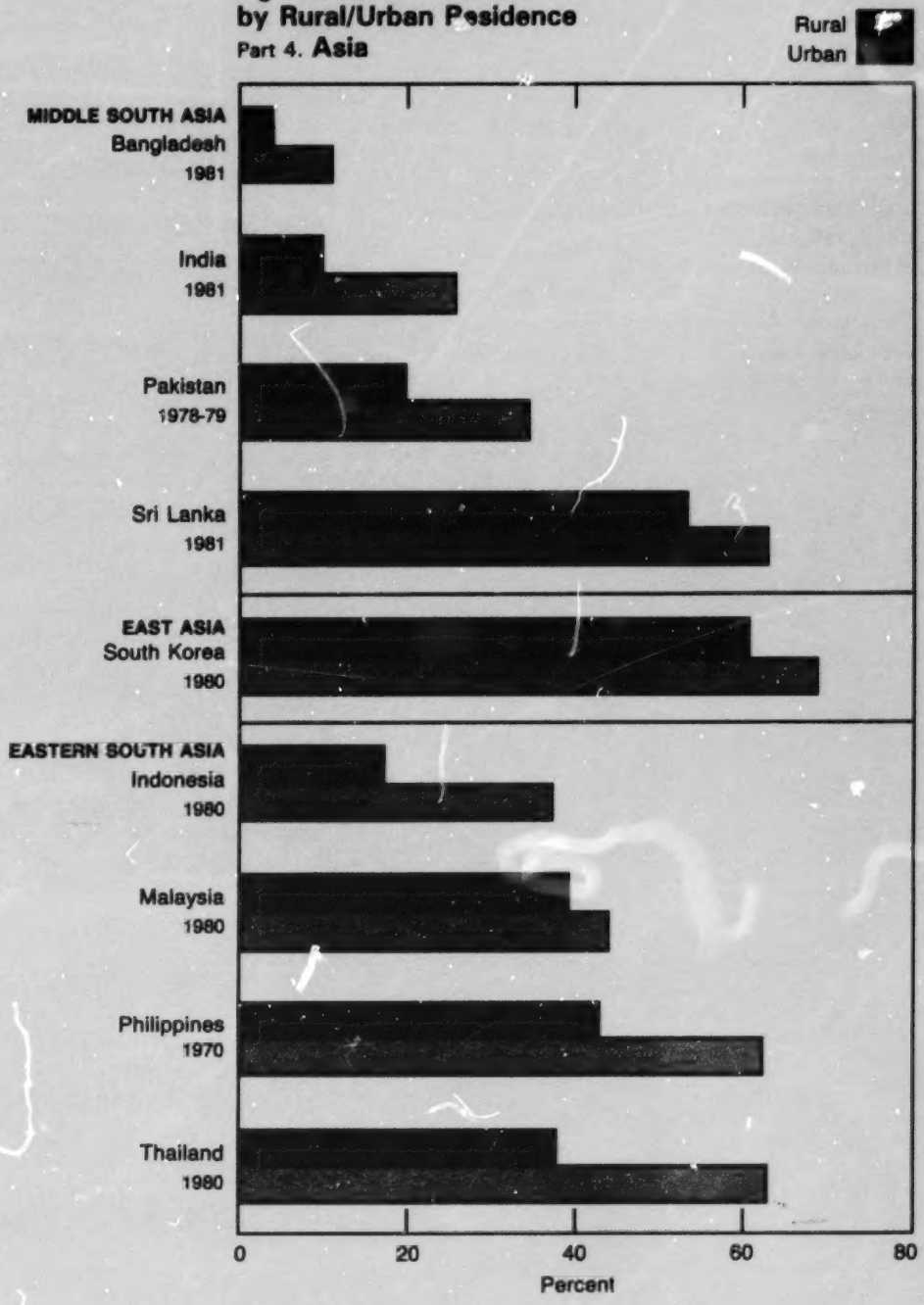


Chart 12.

Percent Widowed Among Women and Men Age 50 Years and Over

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

Without exception among the Latin American countries, proportionately far more women than men are widowed. This pattern is found worldwide, because of various factors, including women's generally lower mortality rates combined with the tendency for wives to be younger than their husbands.

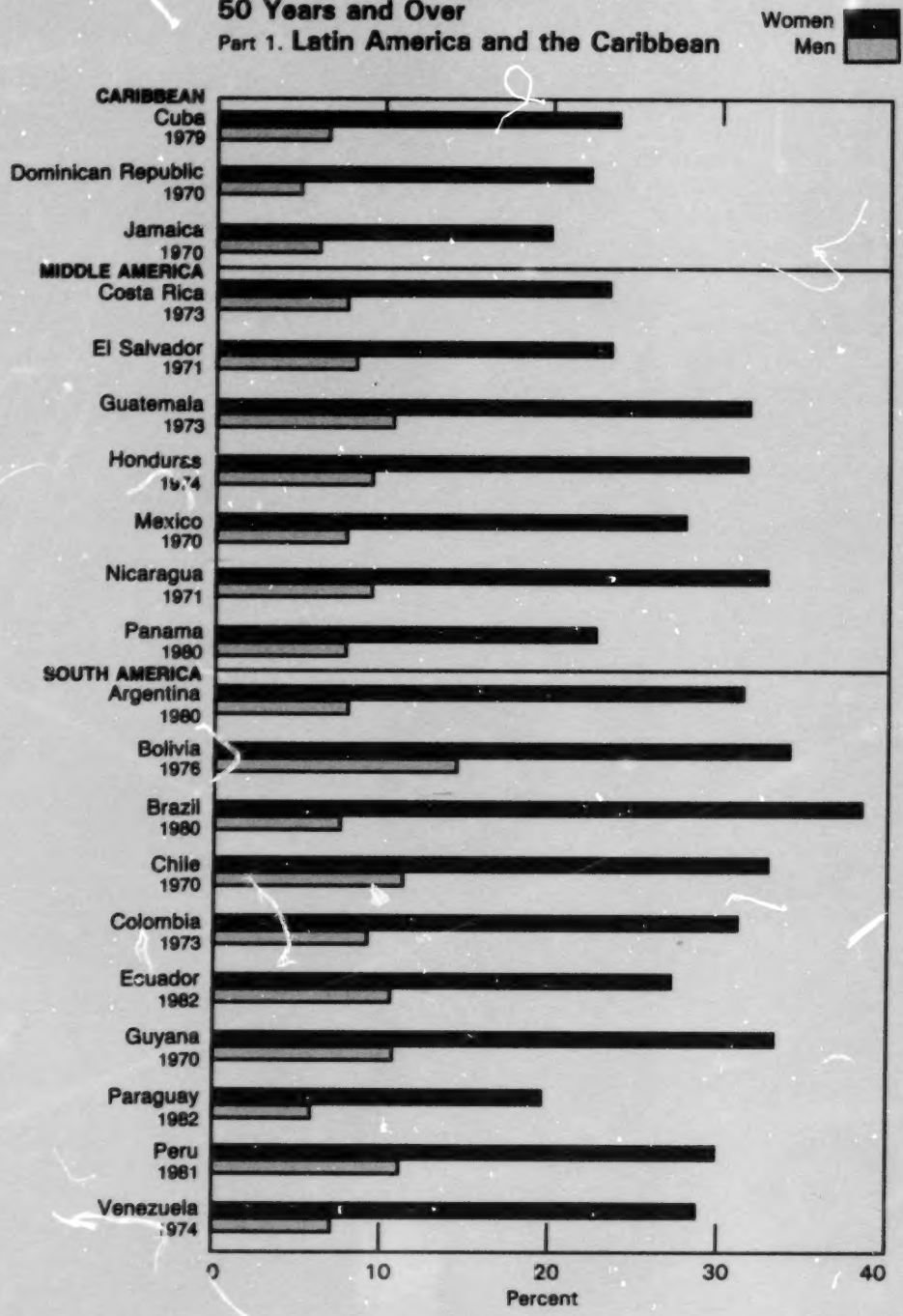


Chart 12.
Percent Widowed Among Women and Men Age 50 Years and Over
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In Sub-Saharan Africa, as elsewhere, widowhood is far more prevalent among women than men. Because mortality rates are so high in much of Africa, the percent widowed is generally higher than in other regions of the world. In a few countries, where widows are "inherited" by their deceased husband's brother, the actual number of widows may be even higher than that reported in the census.

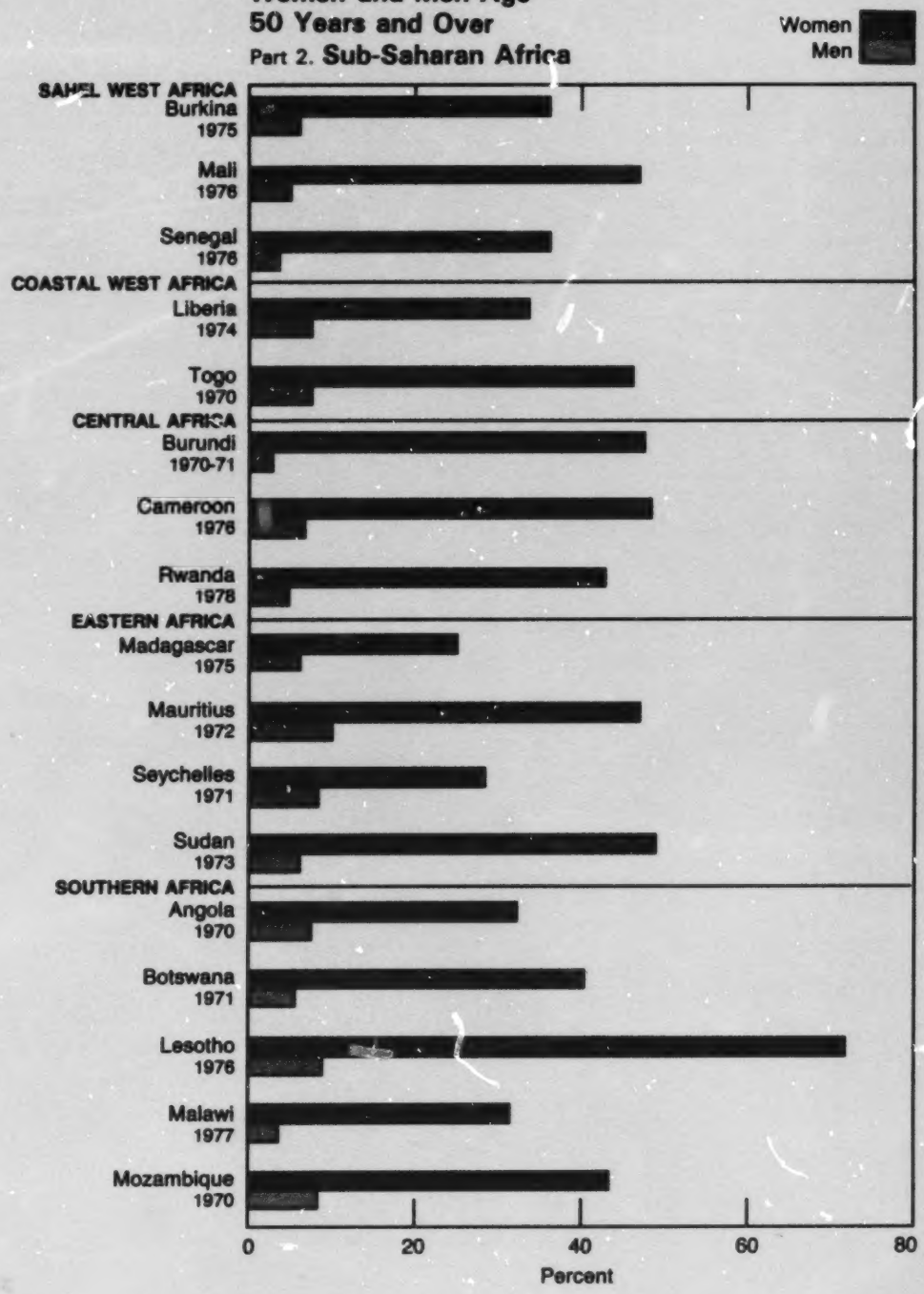


Chart 12.

Percent Widowed Among Women and Men Age 50 Years and Over

Part 3. Near East and North Africa

A large proportion of women over 50 years of age are widowed in the Near East and North Africa, reflecting, as elsewhere, the greater longevity of women than men and the limited opportunities for widowed women to remarry. In nearly all the countries of the region, censuses report between one-third and one-half of the older women as widowed.

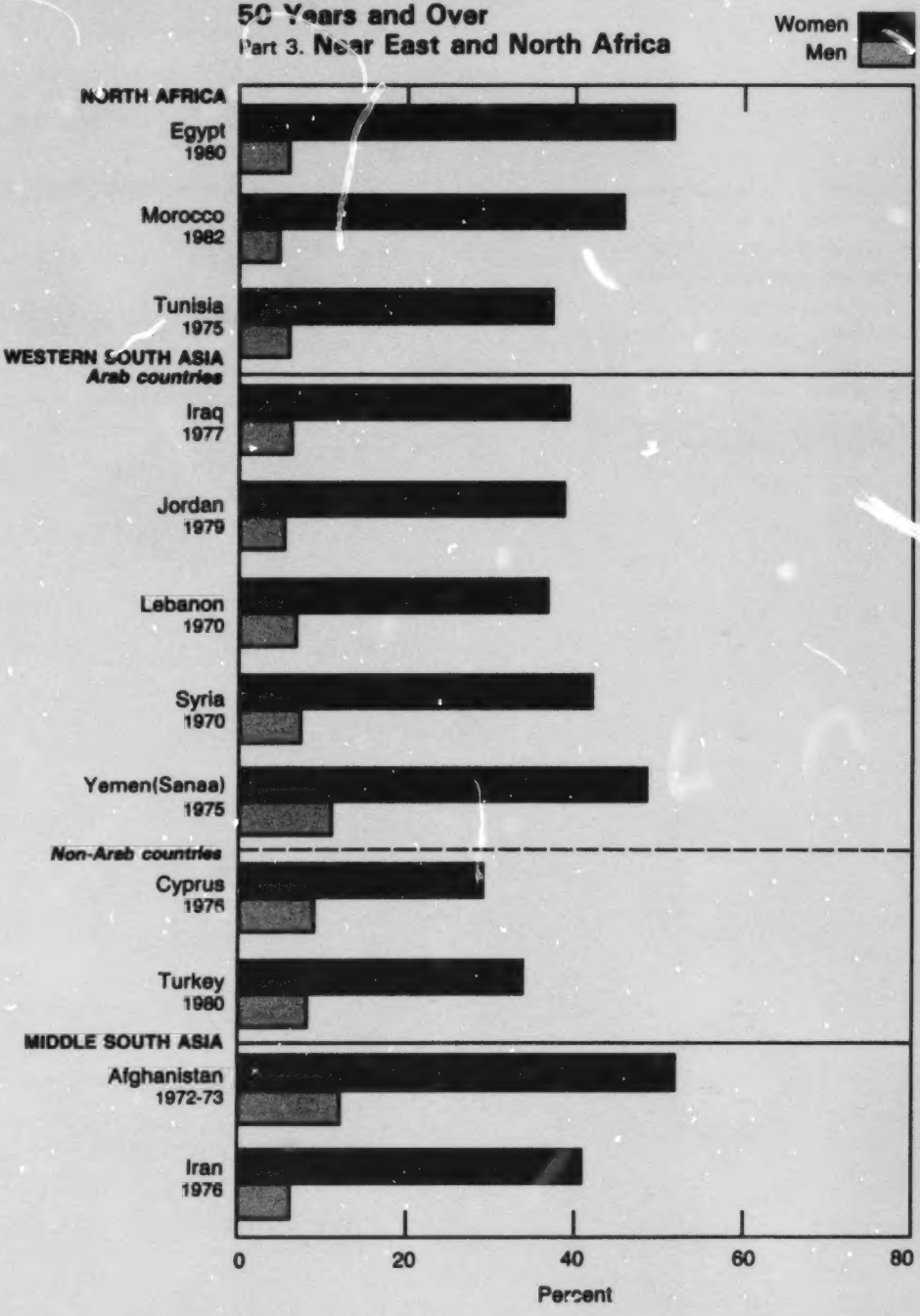


Chart 12.
Percent Widowed Among Women and Men Age 50 Years and Over
Part 4. **Asia**

Among the population age 50 years and over, by far a larger proportion of women than men are widowed. As elsewhere in the world, Asian wives are usually younger than their husbands and experience lower mortality, as a result of which they tend to outlive their husbands. In addition, men are more likely than women to remarry after the death of their spouse, and so they are no longer reported as widowers at the time of enumeration.

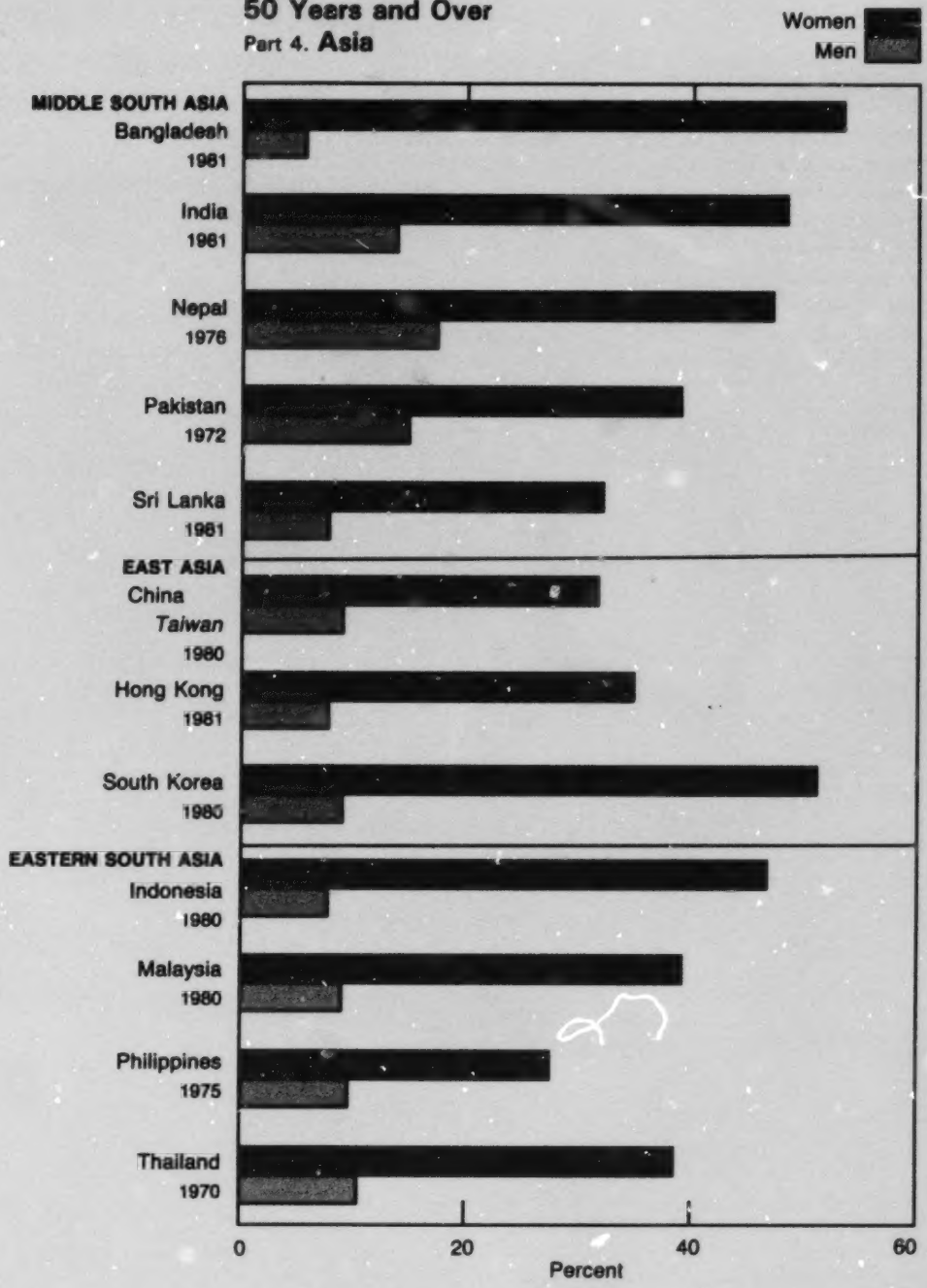


Chart 13.

Percent of Households With Women Heads

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

The proportion of women who are reported as heads of households does not vary much among the Middle and South American countries providing this information. In line with the general tendency to report a male as head if one is present, households with women heads are usually those in which a marriage has been dissolved by death, divorce, or separation.

In parts of the Caribbean, in contrast to most other places, it is not unusual for a woman to be reported as head of the household, even in the presence of a male partner. In general, Caribbean studies show a disadvantaged position of women household heads: they score lower than men on educational attainment, have higher unemployment, and are more likely to have jobs in service occupations than in agricultural or industrial production.

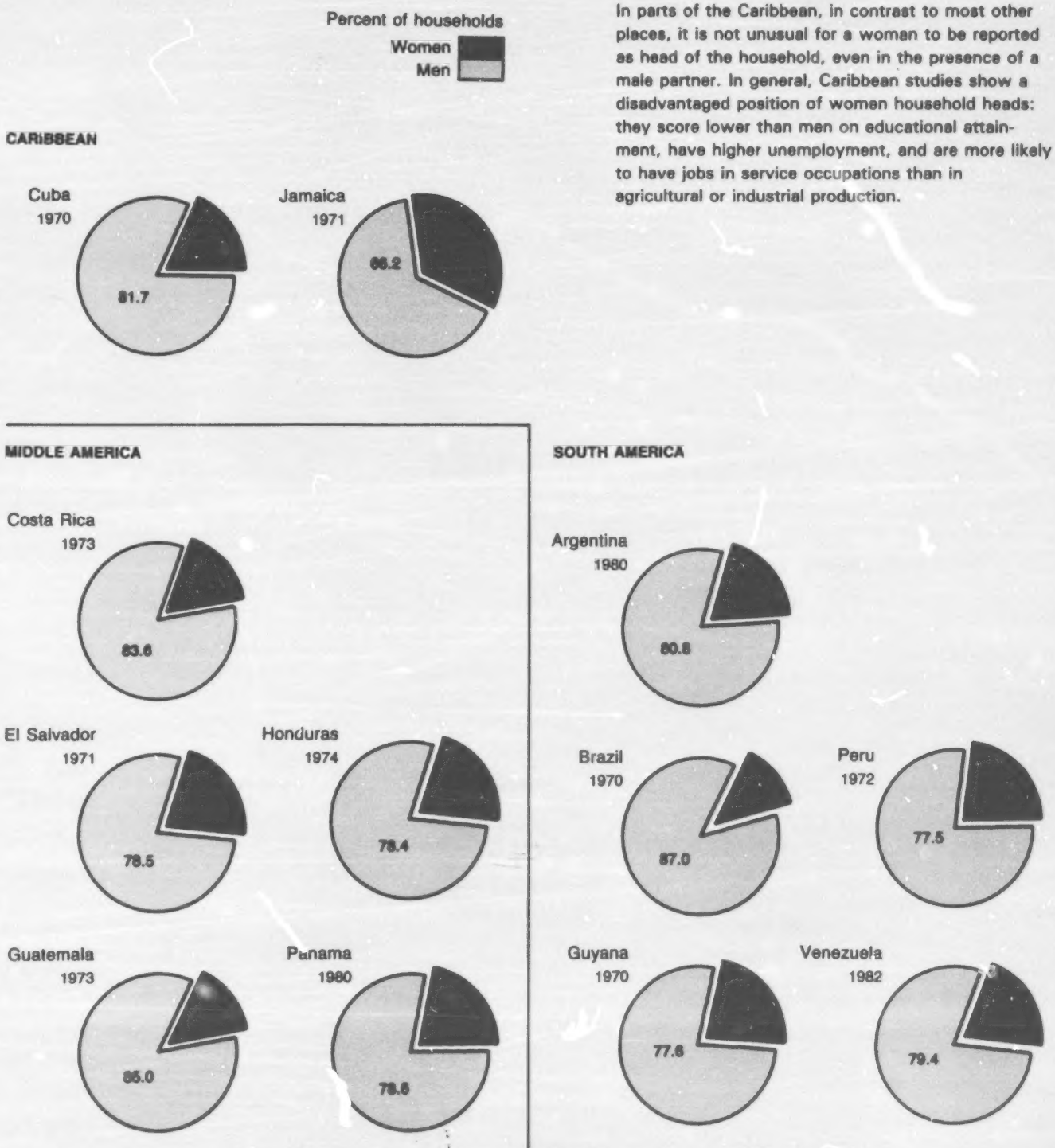


Chart 13.
Percent of Households With Women Heads
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of households reported to be headed by women is fairly high, over 20 percent in five of the eleven countries with data.

Particularly in Southern Africa, where a large portion of the male population has emigrated for work, women are left to manage their families alone. Even in this situation, however, the absent husband is often reported as the nominal head of household.

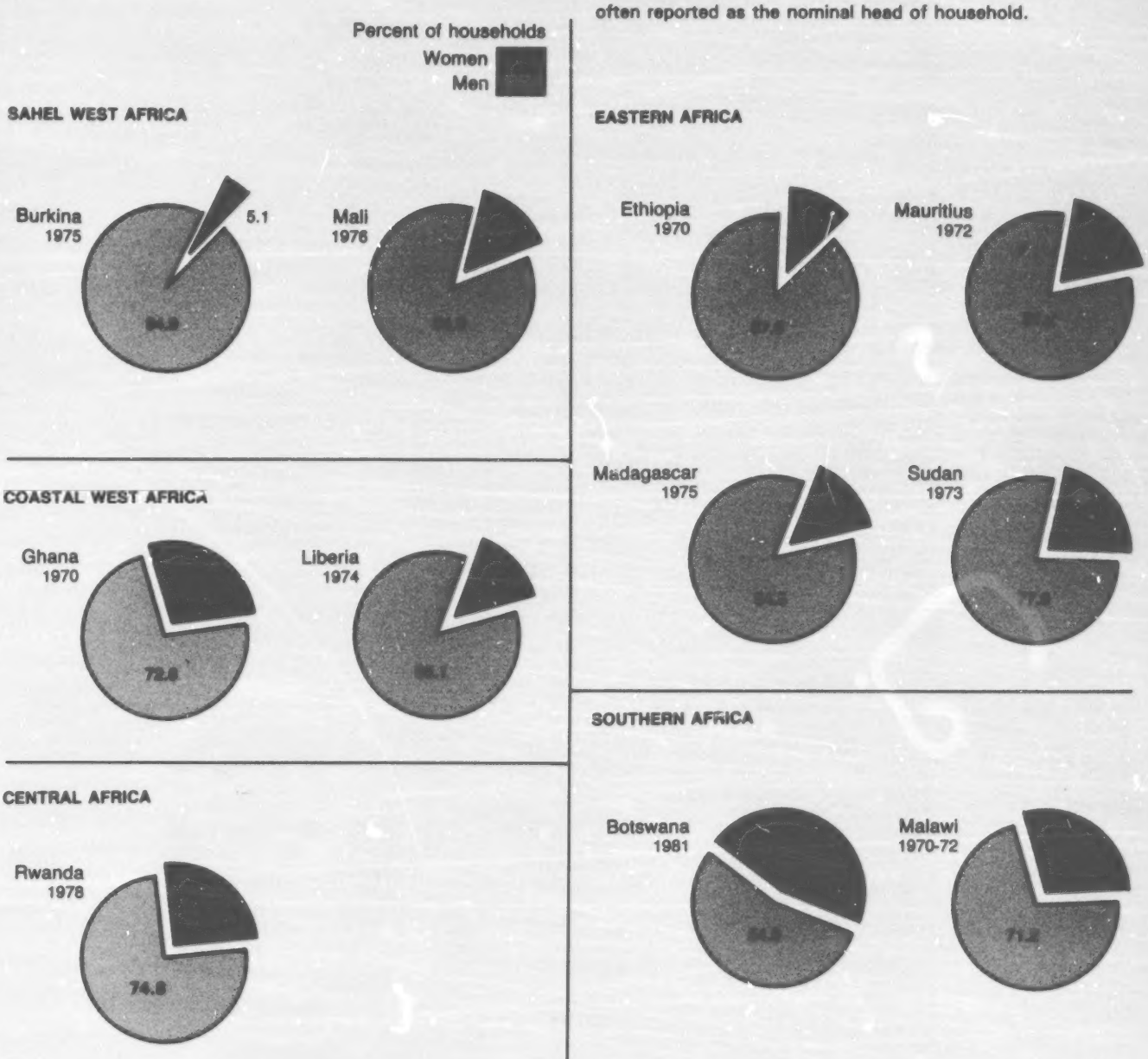


Chart 13.
Percent of Households With Women Heads
Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

Among the six countries in the Near East/North Africa region providing data on gender of household heads, between 7 and 17 percent of households are reported to be headed by women. Given the general reluctance of respondents in censuses and surveys to identify women as heads of households, these figures are conservative. Female headship rates in this region are somewhat lower than those reported in other regions with available data, but it is not clear whether the differences are real or attributable to variations in reporting practices.

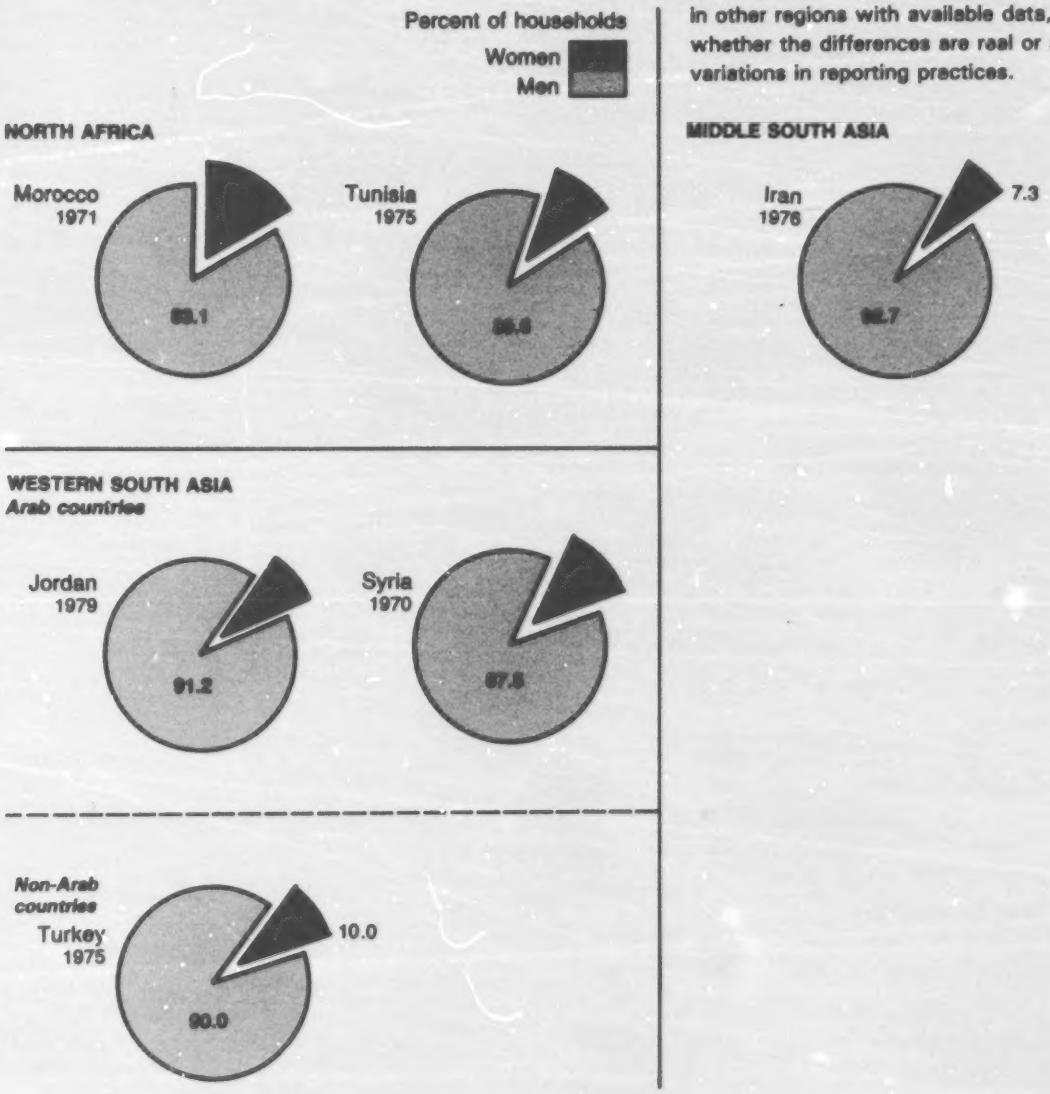


Chart 13.
Percent of Households With Women Heads
Part 4. **Asia**

Many of the Asian countries do not tabulate and report data on gender of household head although this information usually appears on the census questionnaire. Among countries providing data, fewer than one in five households are reported to be headed by women in most of the countries.

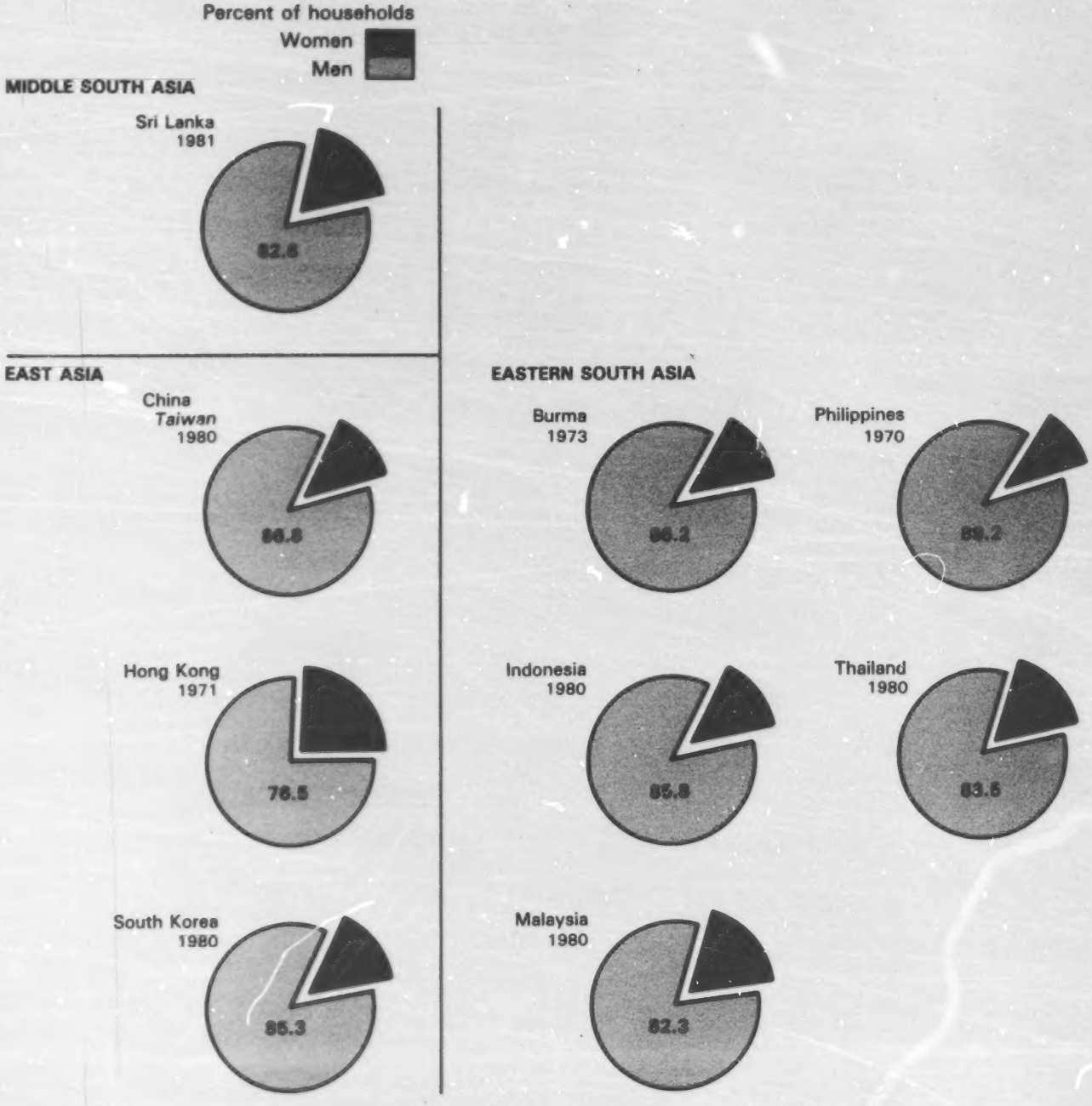


Chart 14.
Average Lifetime Fertility per Woman
Part 1. **Latin America and the Caribbean**

Fertility rates in Latin America and the Caribbean present a varied picture. While women in some countries in each subregion still have an average of five or more births, about half the countries now have a smaller family size, with a few averaging only three or fewer children.

In most of the countries, family planning practices are supported by government policies, with programs in various stages of implementation.

Overall, fertility levels in this region are moderate to low compared to other developing regions. Rates are comparable to those in some of the Asian subregions but generally lower than those in most of Africa and the Near East.

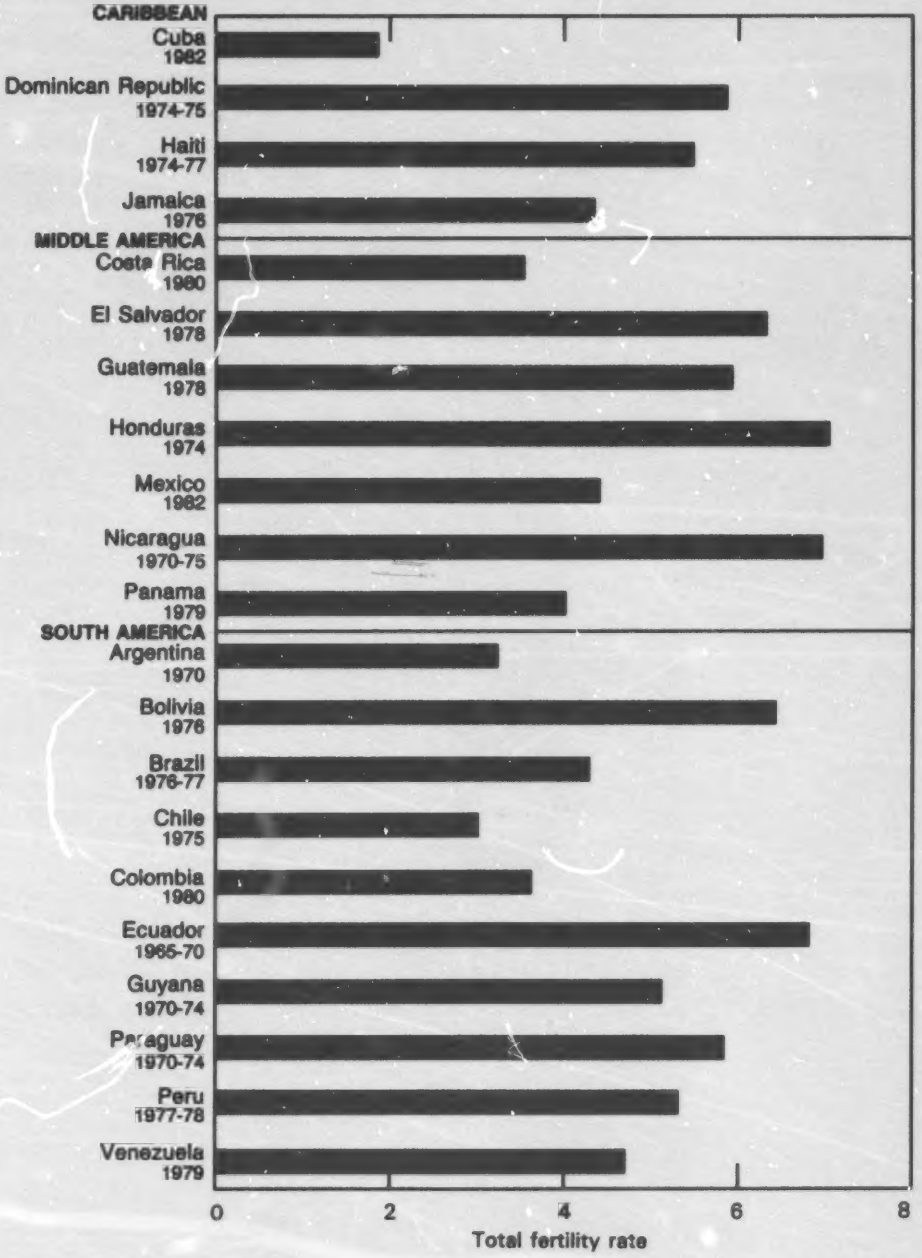


Chart 14.
Average Lifetime Fertility per Woman
Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In contrast to many developing countries in other regions, most African nations have not experienced declines in fertility from the very high levels prevalent in the recent past. In most of the countries shown, women still have an average of six or more children, and it is only in some of the island nations that they average fewer than five.

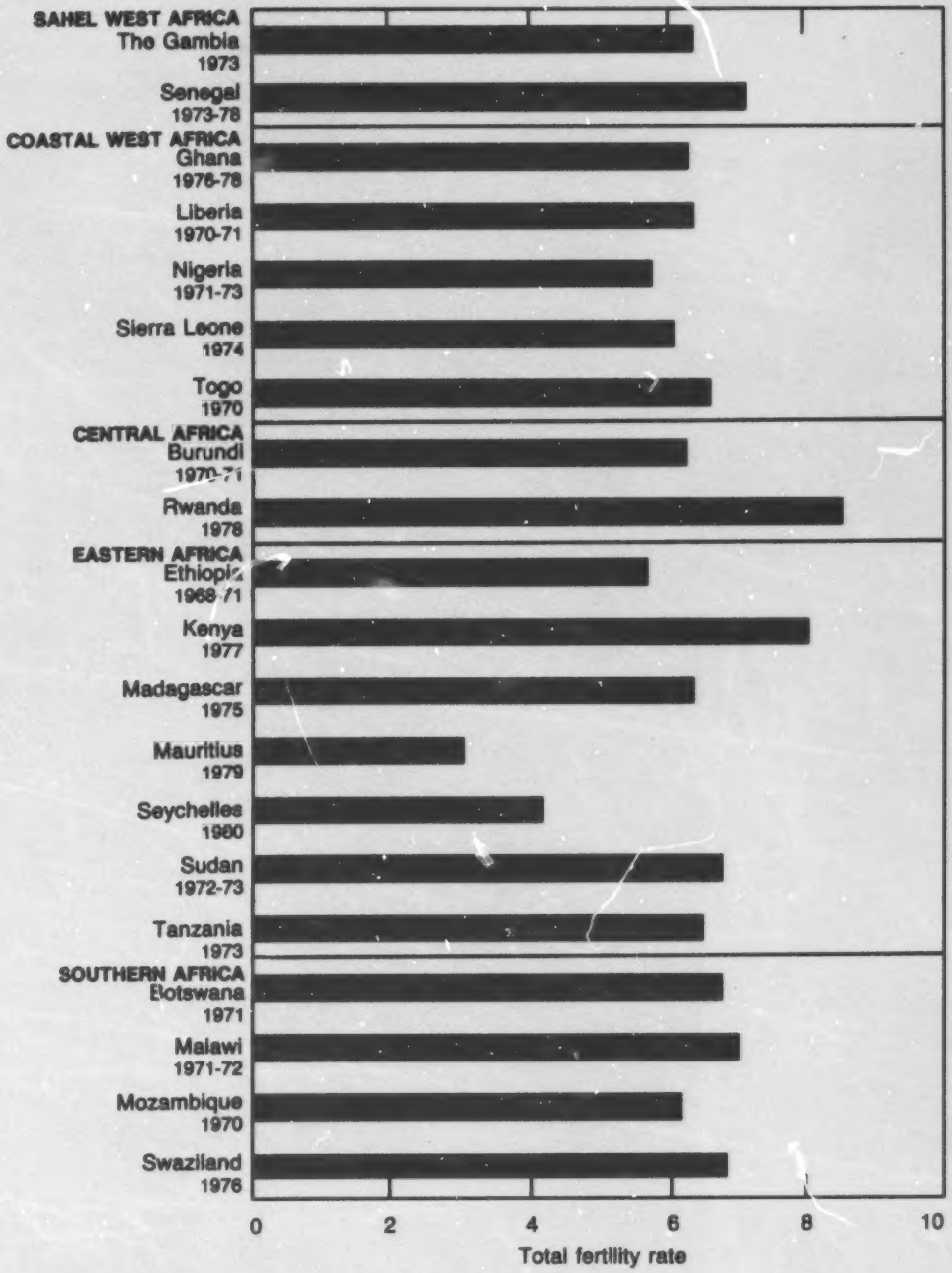


Chart 14.

Average Lifetime Fertility per Woman

Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

Fertility is generally high in the Near East/North Africa region, with women having an average of six or more children in seven of the ten countries reporting data on fertility. Use of contraception is at low to moderate levels, with from 2 to just over 50 percent of women currently using a method, according to recent reports.

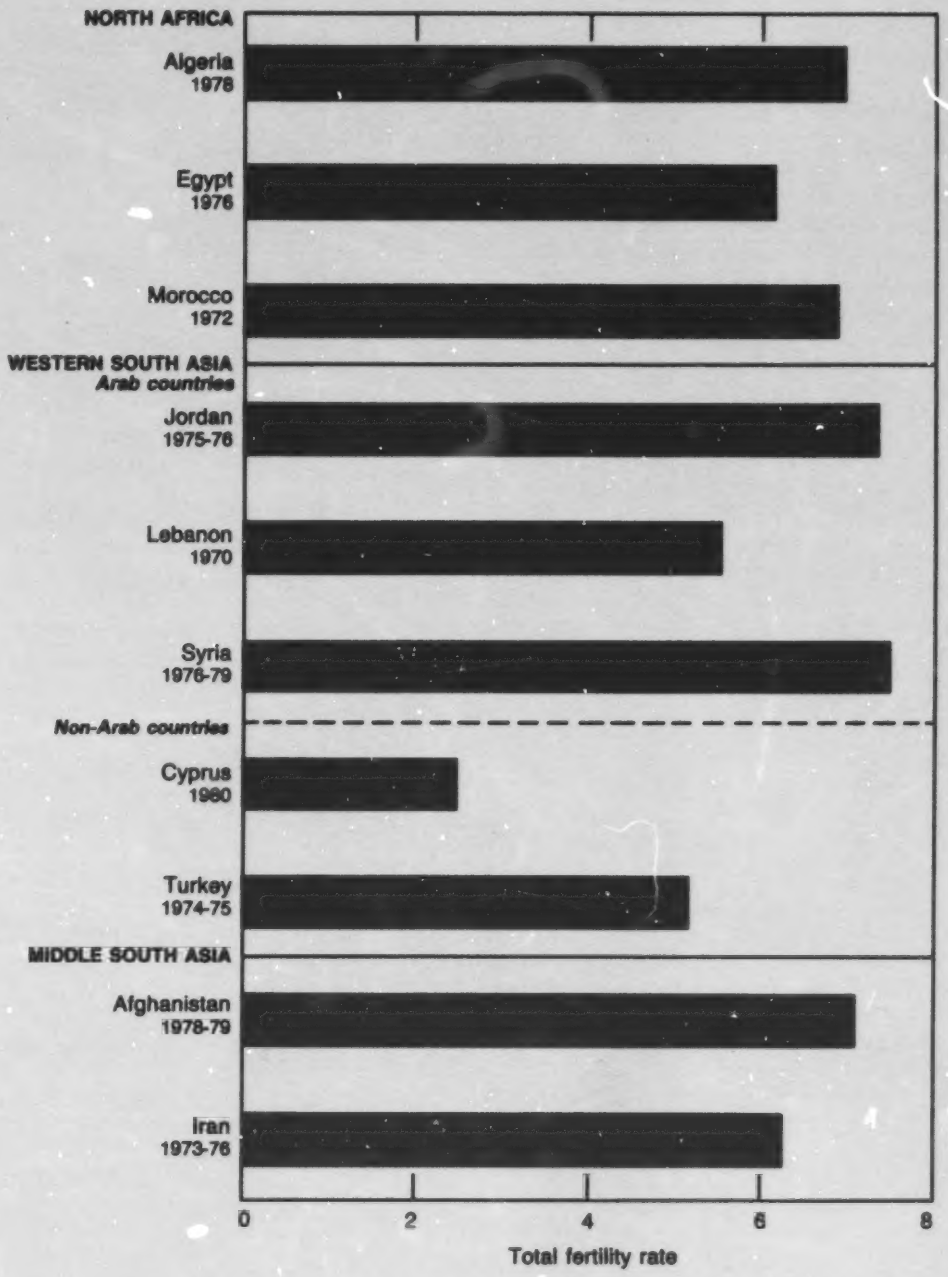


Chart 14.
Average Lifetime Fertility per Woman
Part 4. **Asia**

Fertility levels vary considerably among Asian countries, but they may be fairly well categorized by geographic subregion.

In East Asia, women have only two or three children on average, while women in Eastern South Asia tend to have four or five. These levels represent considerable declines from previous years, when average family size was much larger.

On the Indian subcontinent, fertility has declined only slightly or not at all, and completed fertility still averages six or seven children per woman.

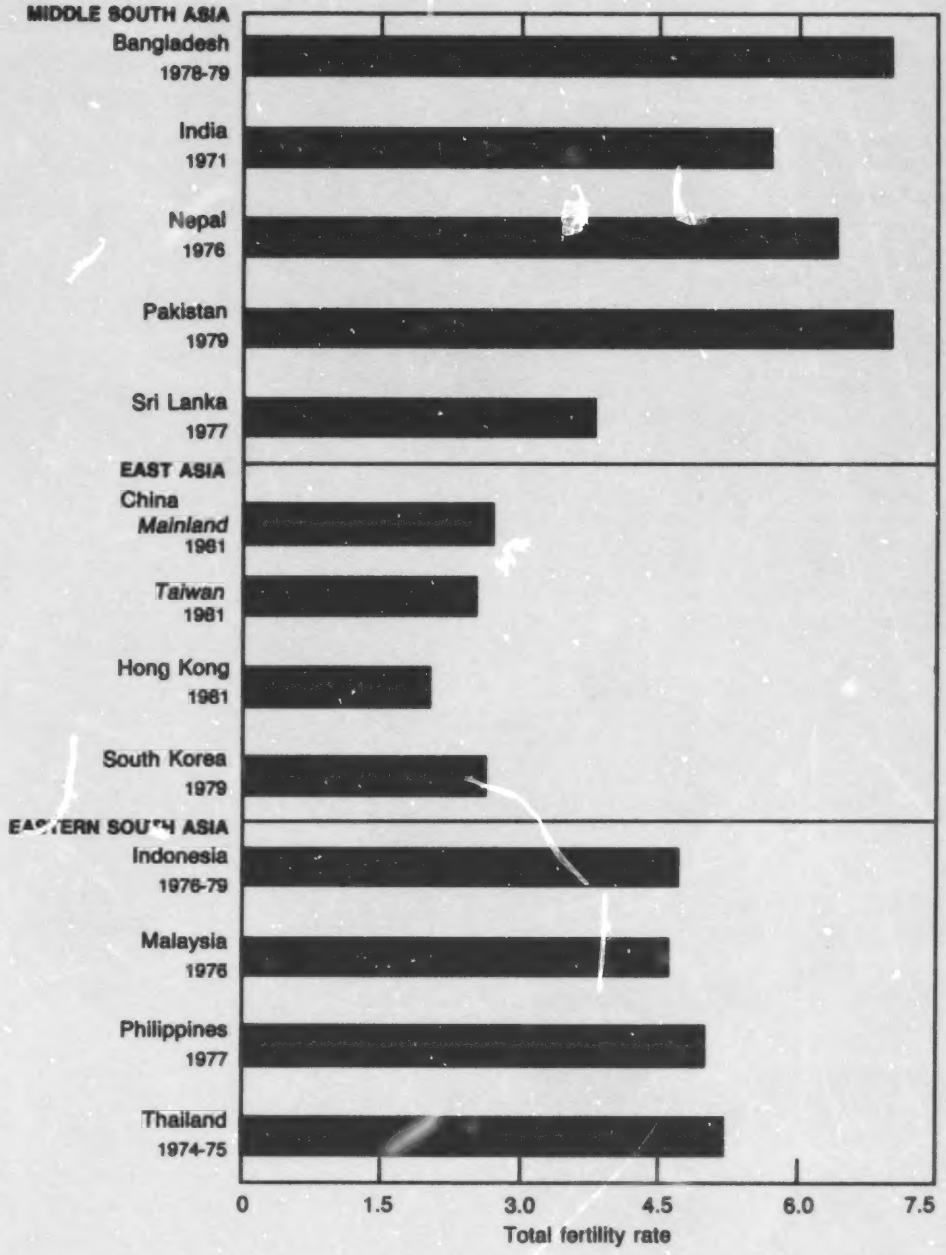
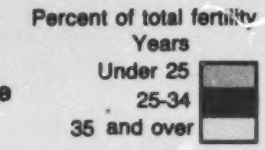


Chart 15.

Distribution of Lifetime Fertility, by Age of Mother

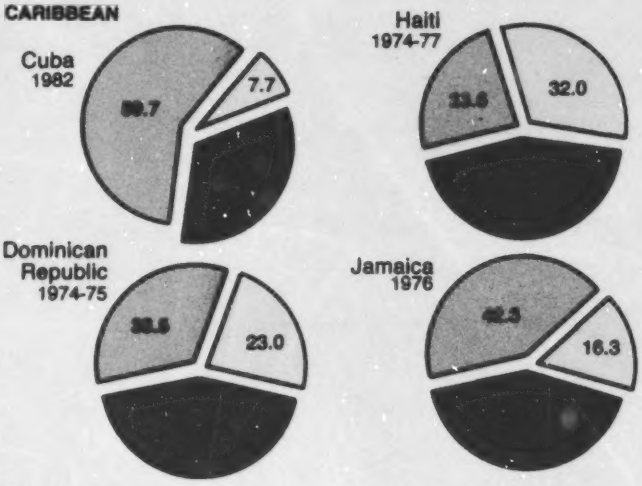
Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean



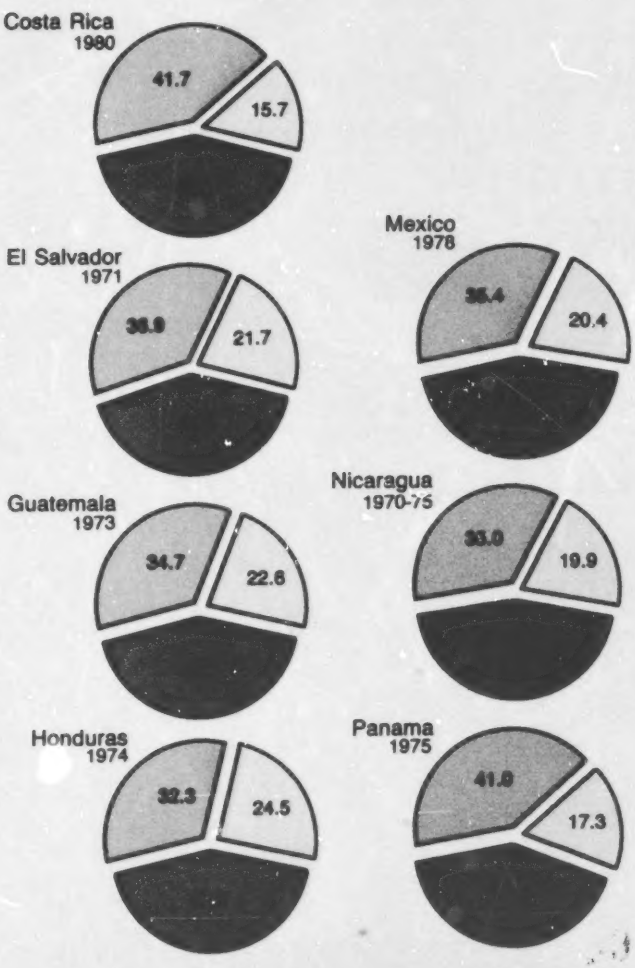
The proportion of total fertility that takes place during the various stages of women's reproductive life is fairly uniform among the Latin American countries. In Middle and South America, the largest proportion of total births occurs to women in their midtwenties to midthirties. Younger women also have a substantial portion of total fertility, as childbearing tends to begin at an early age in the region.

In parts of the Caribbean, marriage or cohabitation begins much earlier, and a larger share of total fertility is attributable to women in the youngest age group.

CARIBBEAN



MIDDLE AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA

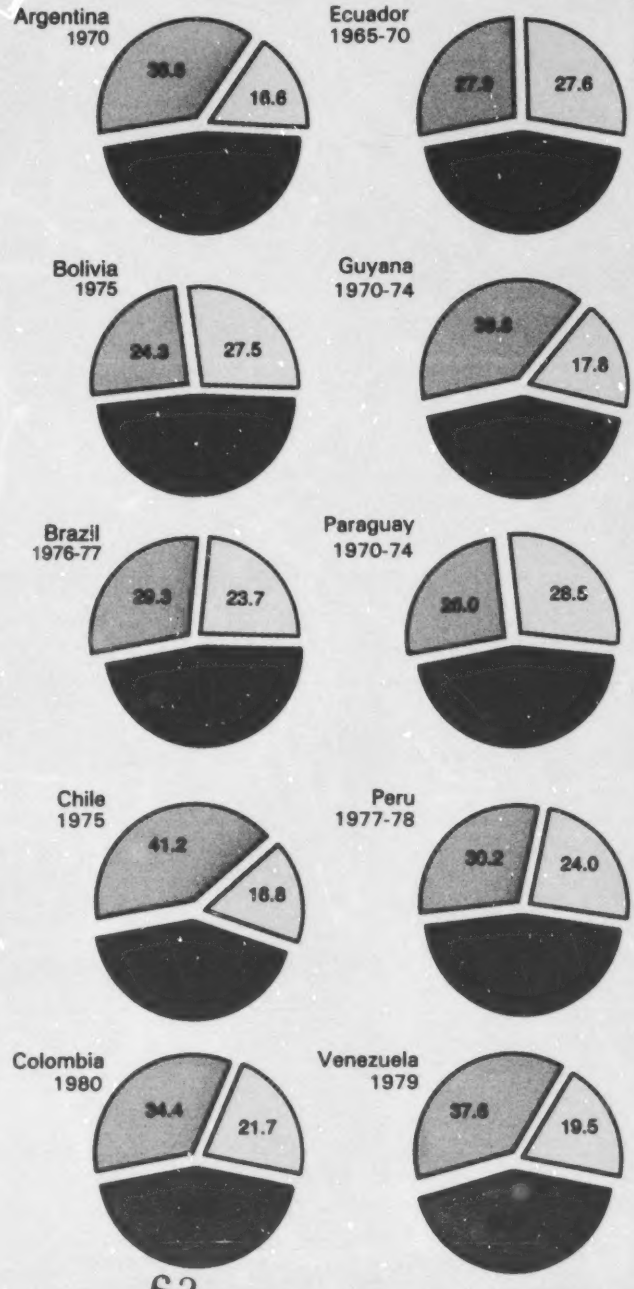


Chart 15.

Distribution of Lifetime Fertility, by Age of Mother

Part 2. **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Consistent with the overall high levels of fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa, women experience a substantial share of fertility in each age group. As marriage takes place at an early age, women begin their reproductive lives at young ages as well. While the largest share of fertility typically occurs between 25 and 34 years of age, African women continue to bear children in their late thirties and into their forties.

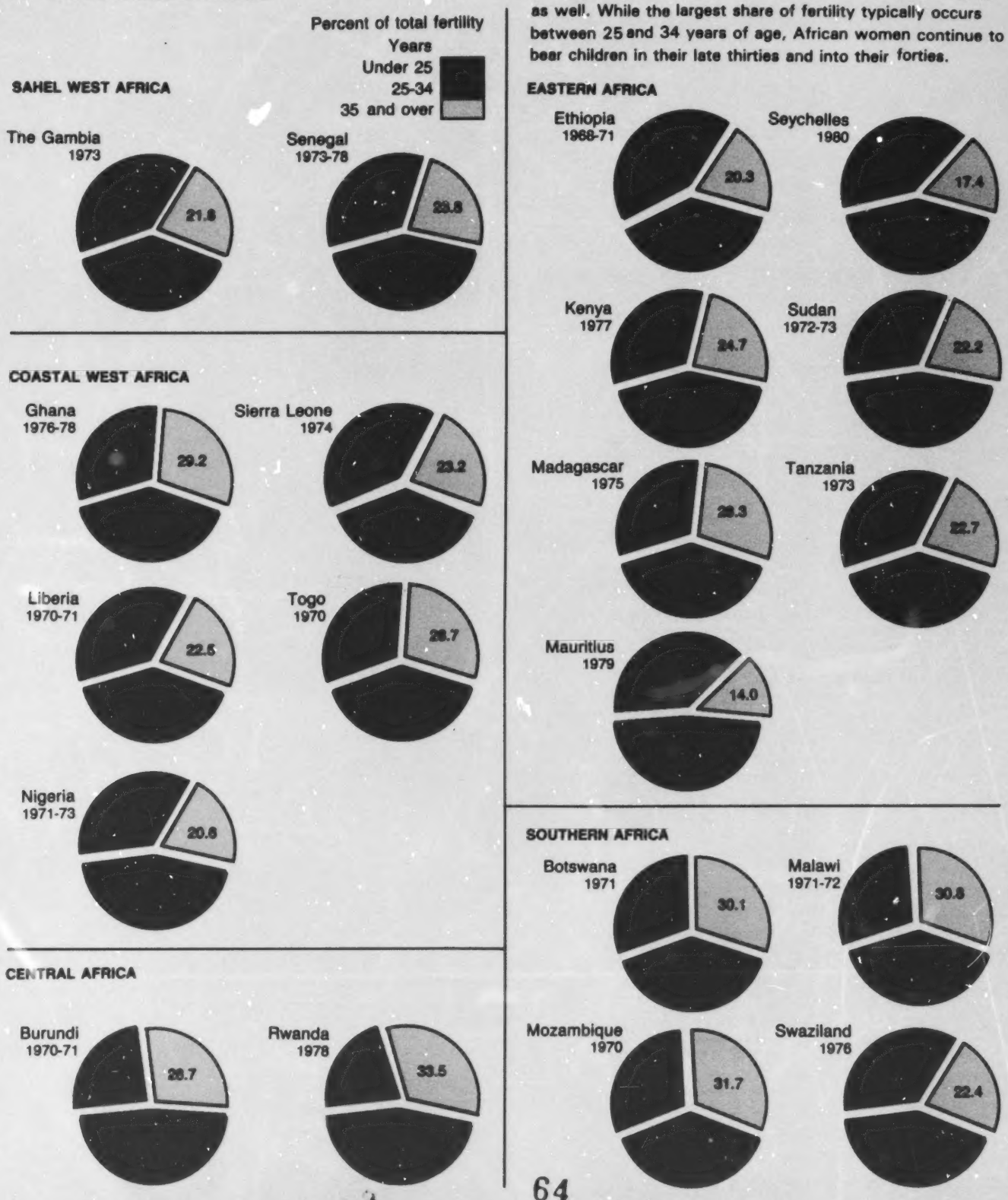


Chart 15.

Distribution of Lifetime Fertility, by Age of Mother

Part 3. **Near East and North Africa**

Women begin their childbearing early in most countries of the Near East and North Africa. They continue to have children into their thirties and forties, in a pattern consistent with the large average family size.

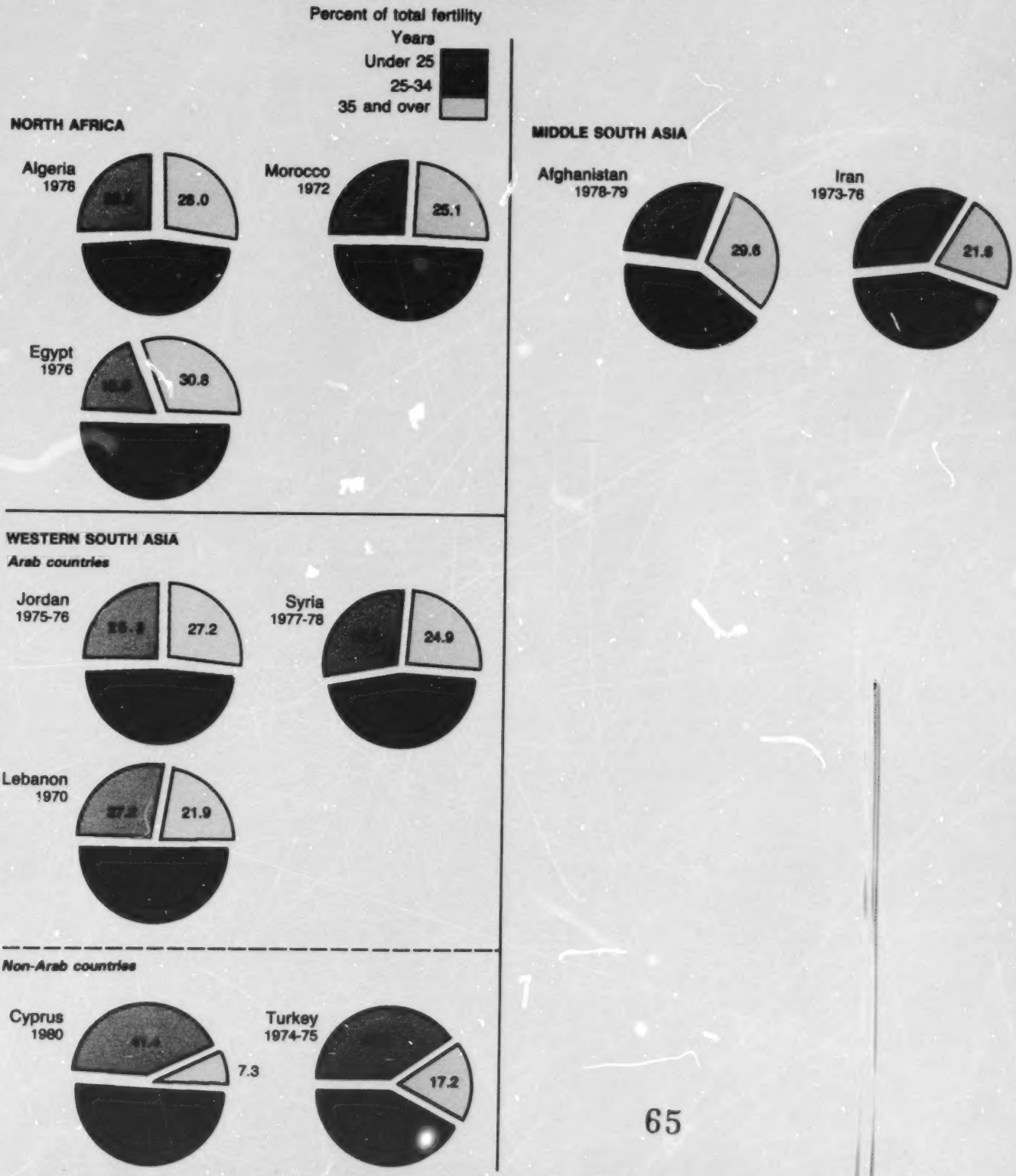


Chart 15.
Distribution of Lifetime Fertility, by Age of Mother
Part 4. **Asia**

Age patterns of childbearing show a relationship to the average completed family size. In East Asia, where fertility is lowest among Asian subregions, women's fertility is nearly completed by 35 years of age, with one-half to two-thirds of total fertility taking place between their midtwenties and midthirties.

Elsewhere in Asia, fertility is not completed so quickly, as a substantial portion of births occur when women are older.

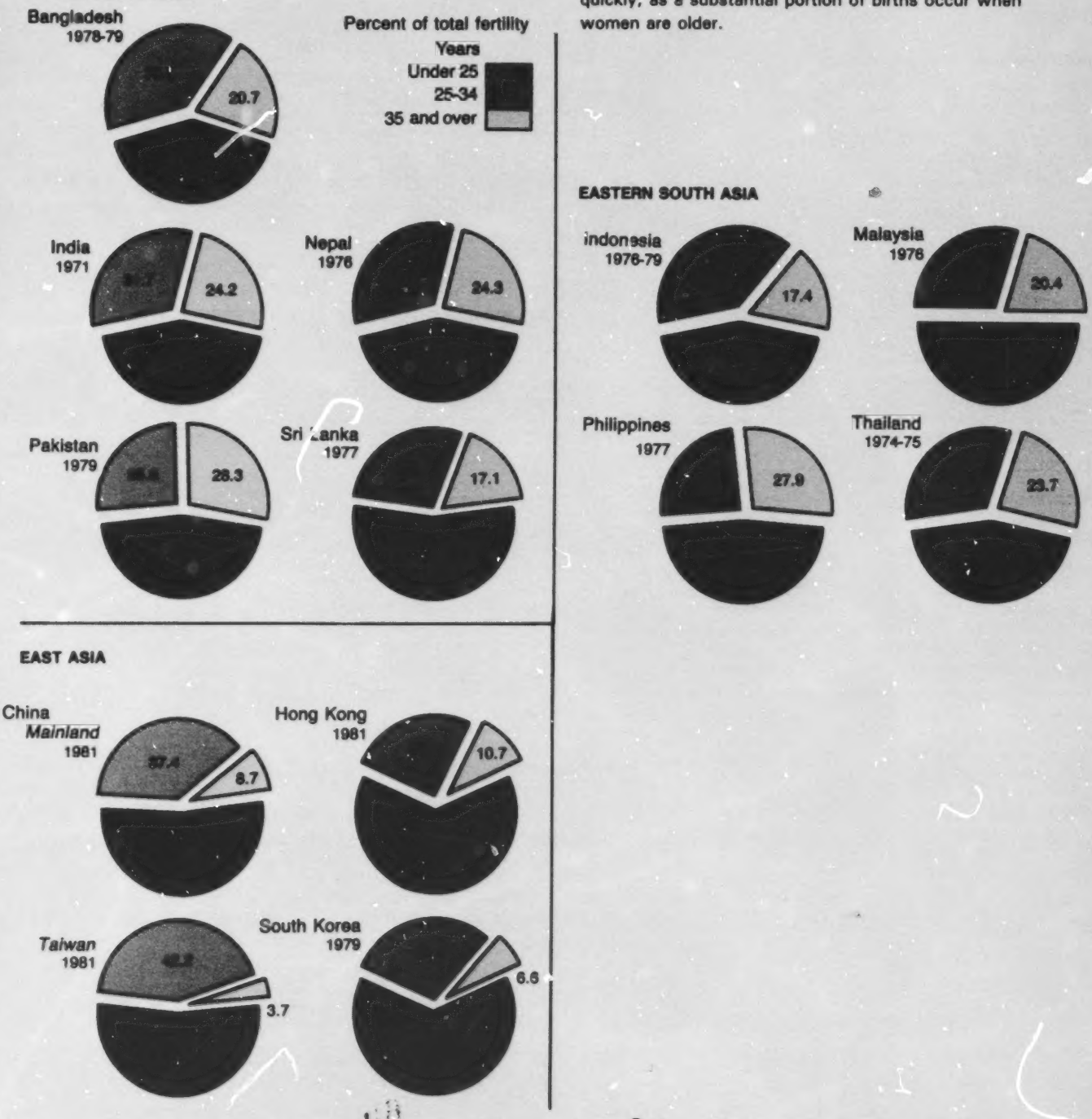


Chart 16.
Infant Mortality Rates
Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a broad range of infant mortality rates that does not conform to any subregional pattern. Each subregion includes countries with both low and high rates. Some of these rates are among the lowest in developing regions, and even the highest tend to be moderate by Third World standards.

As elsewhere in the world, boys in this region have higher death rates in the first year of life than girls do.

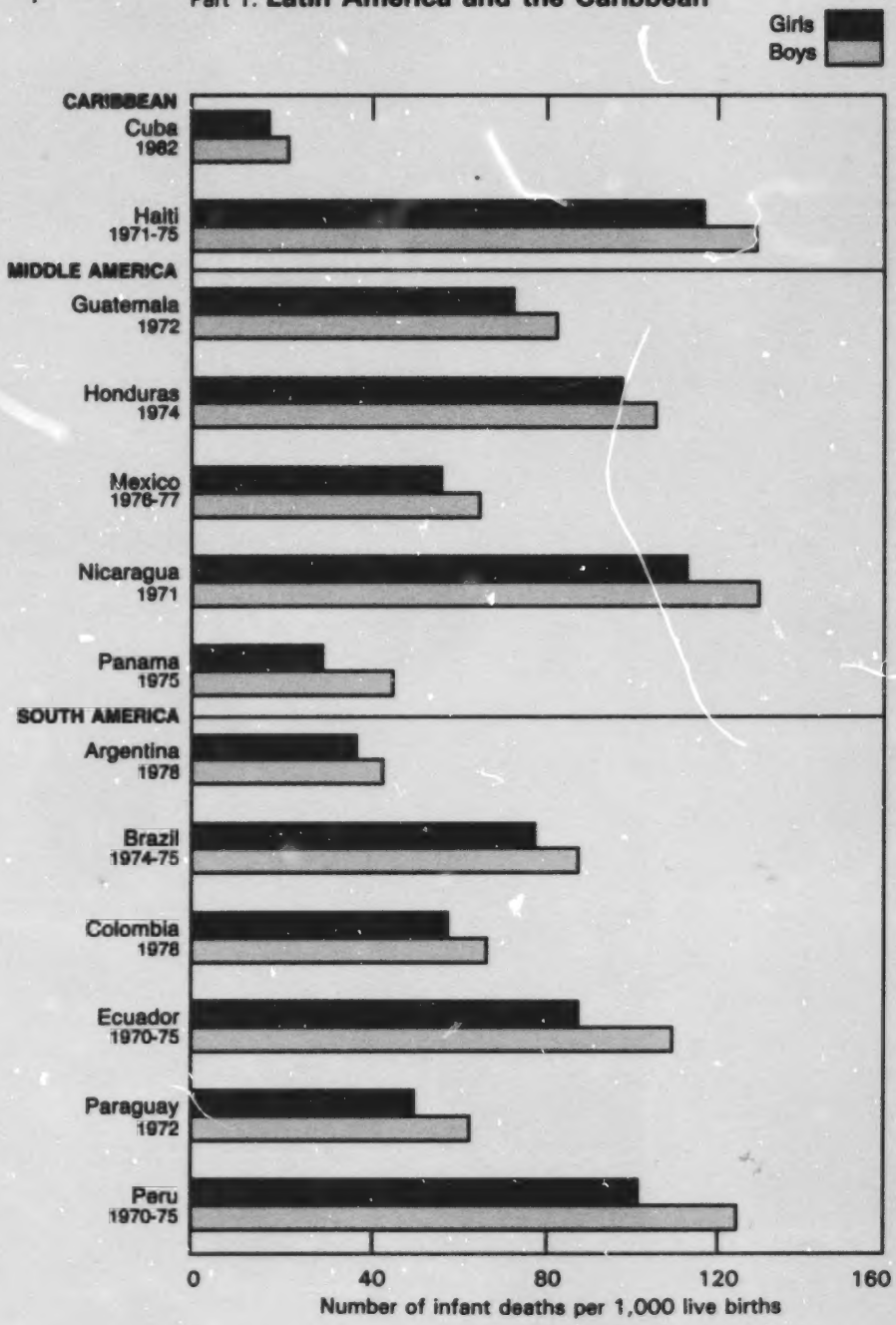


Chart 16.
Infant Mortality Rates
Part 2. Sub-Saharan Africa

With few exceptions, African populations continue to experience very high levels of infant mortality. As elsewhere, life chances for infant girls in Africa are more favorable than for infant boys. However, in most countries, rates for both girls and boys are above 100 infant deaths per 1,000 live births and, in parts of West Africa, they are more than twice that high.

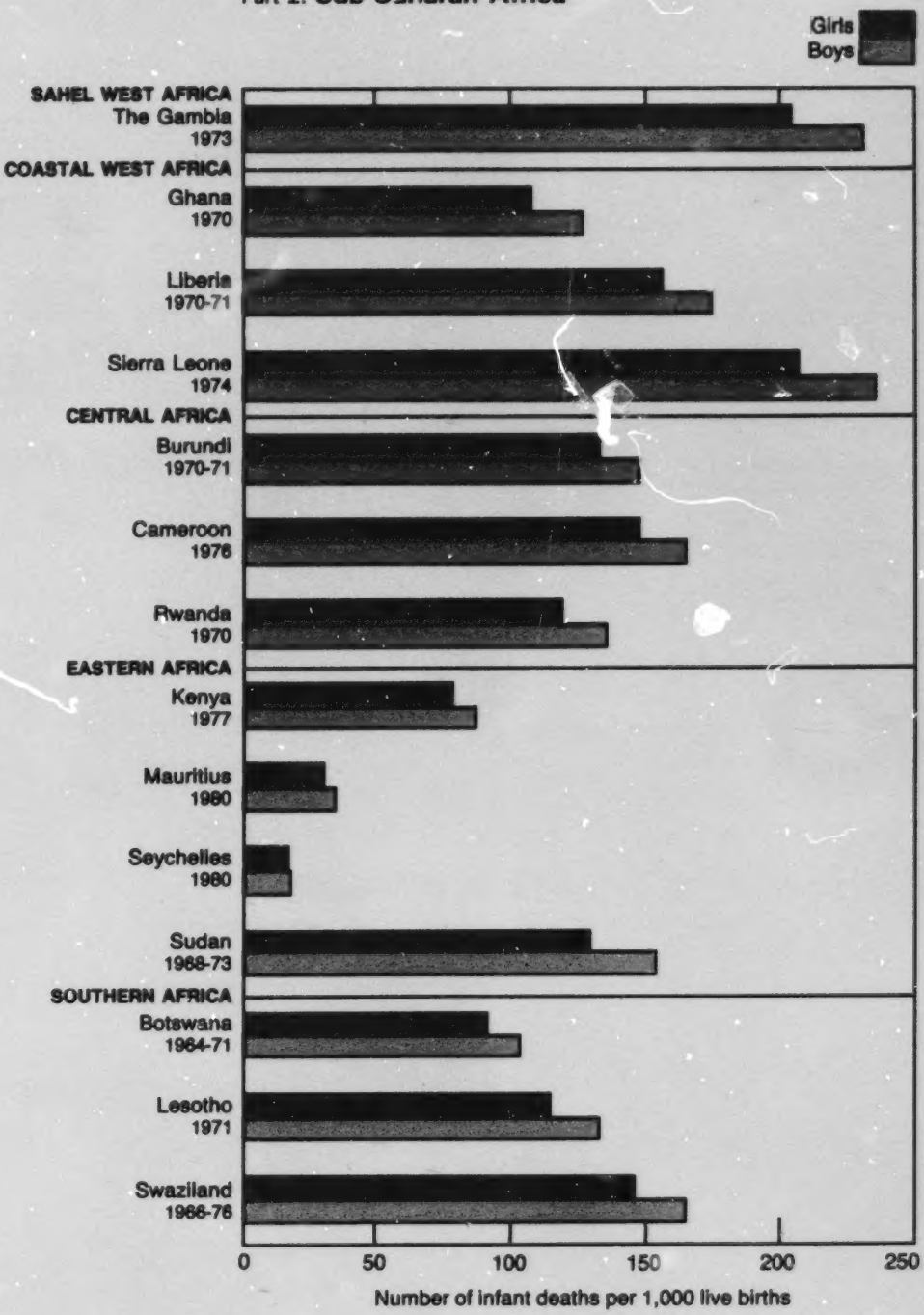


Chart 16.
Infant Mortality Rates
Part 3. Near East and North Africa

Infant mortality rates are highly variable among the countries of the Near East and North Africa, ranging for girls from only 15 to as many as 175 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Although in general girls experience more favorable infant mortality rates than boys, there are some exceptions to this typical pattern.

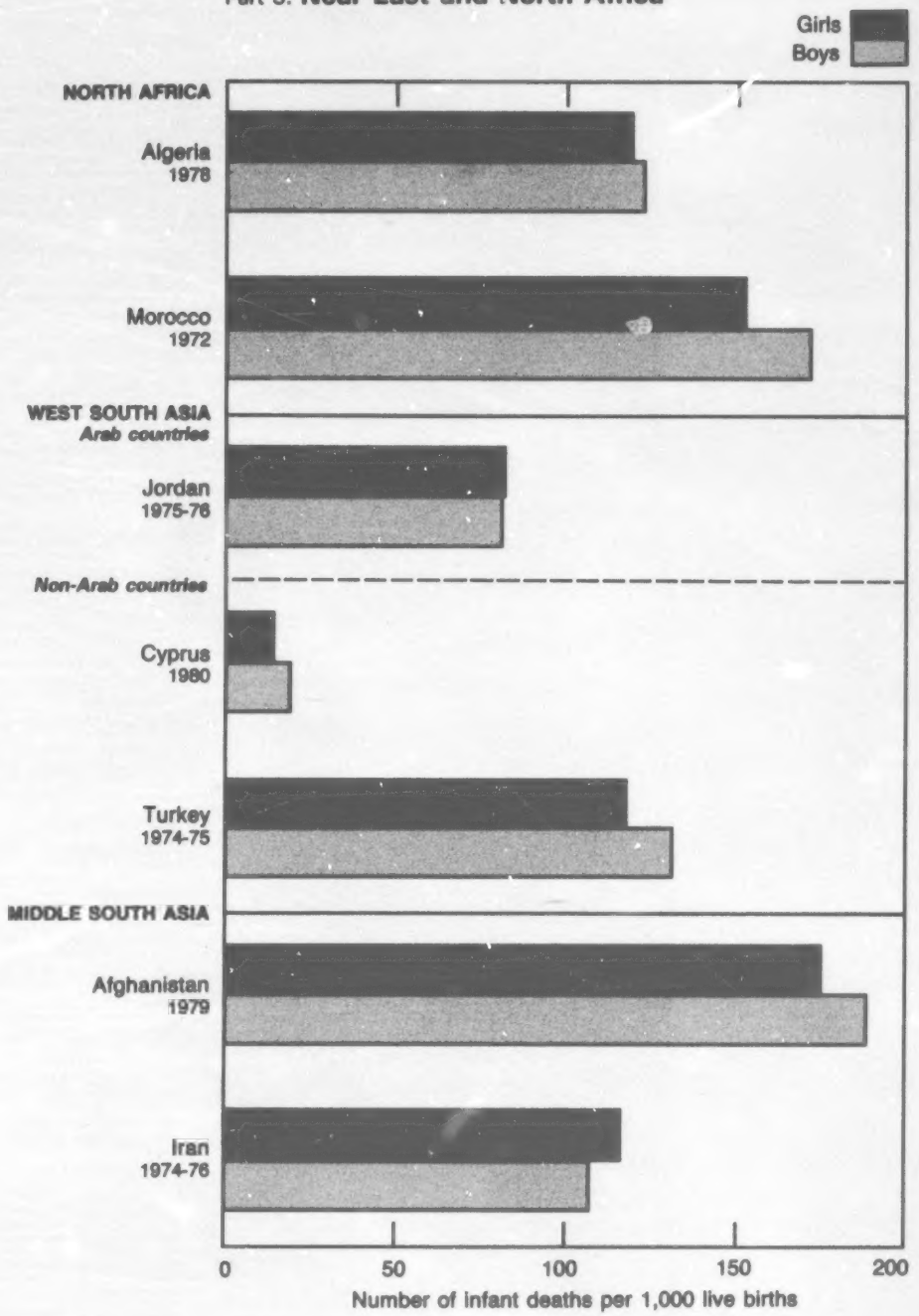


Chart 16.
Infant Mortality Rates
Part 4. Asia

In line with the world pattern, the infant girl in most of Asia has a better chance of survival than the infant boy, though in some countries the differences are minimal or the pattern even reversed.

Levels of infant mortality are very different among the countries, with relatively fewer infant deaths in East Asia, moderate rates in Eastern South Asia, and far poorer survival chances for babies born in Middle South Asia.

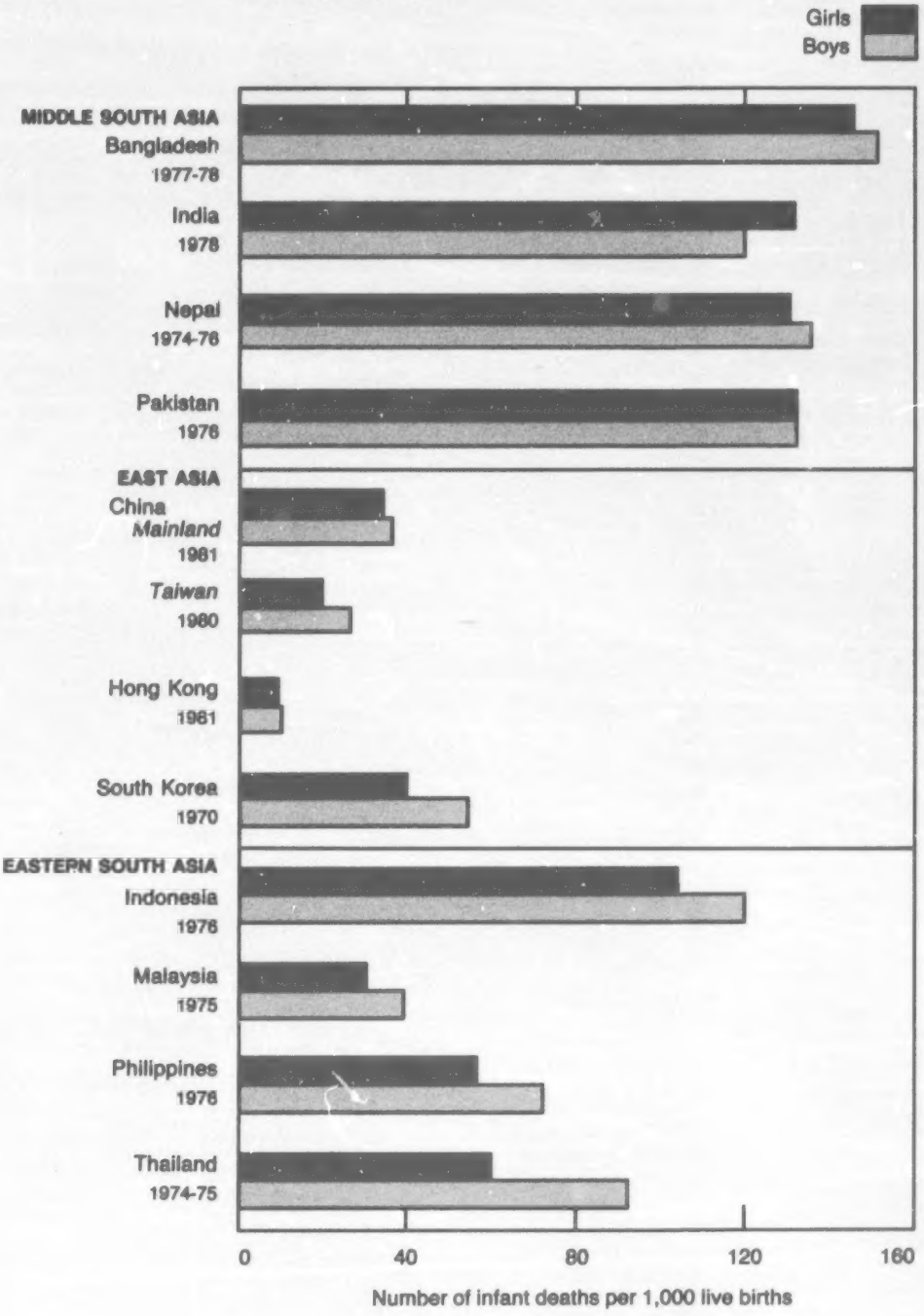


Chart 17.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Part 1. Latin America and the Caribbean

Life expectancy at birth in most of the Latin America/Caribbean region is among the highest in the developing world, in most cases approaching or exceeding 60 years for both sexes although a few countries lag considerably behind. Statistics follow the world norm, indicating that women can be expected to live longer than men.

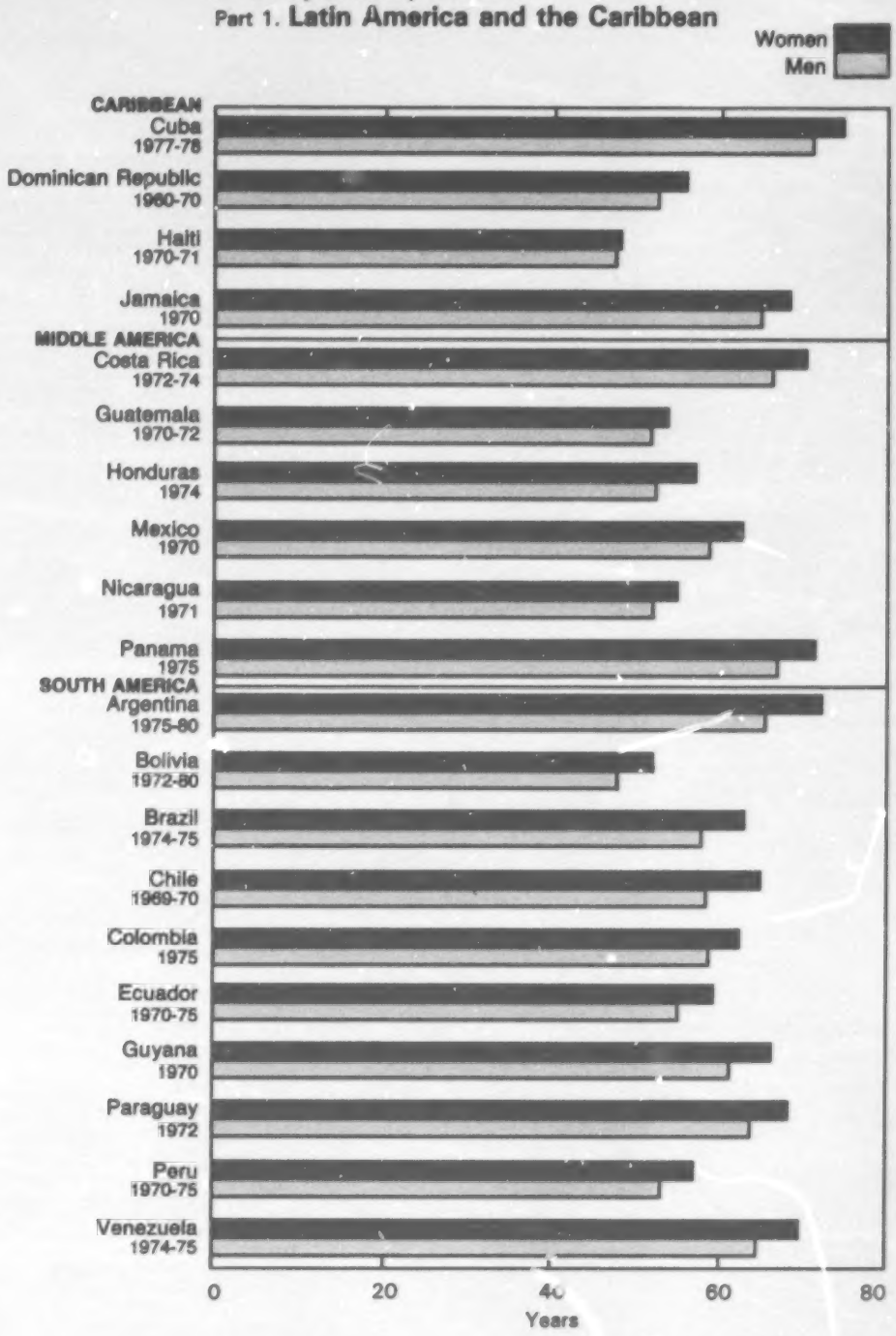


Chart 17.
Life Expectancy at Birth
Part 2. Sub-Saharan Africa

In parts of Eastern and Southern Africa, life expectancy at birth is above 50 years for both women and men. While this level is only moderate by world standards, it represents an advantage over the briefer life span experienced by the remainder of the Sub-Saharan African population.

In all the subregions, women's life expectancy is higher than men's as it is in most countries throughout the world.

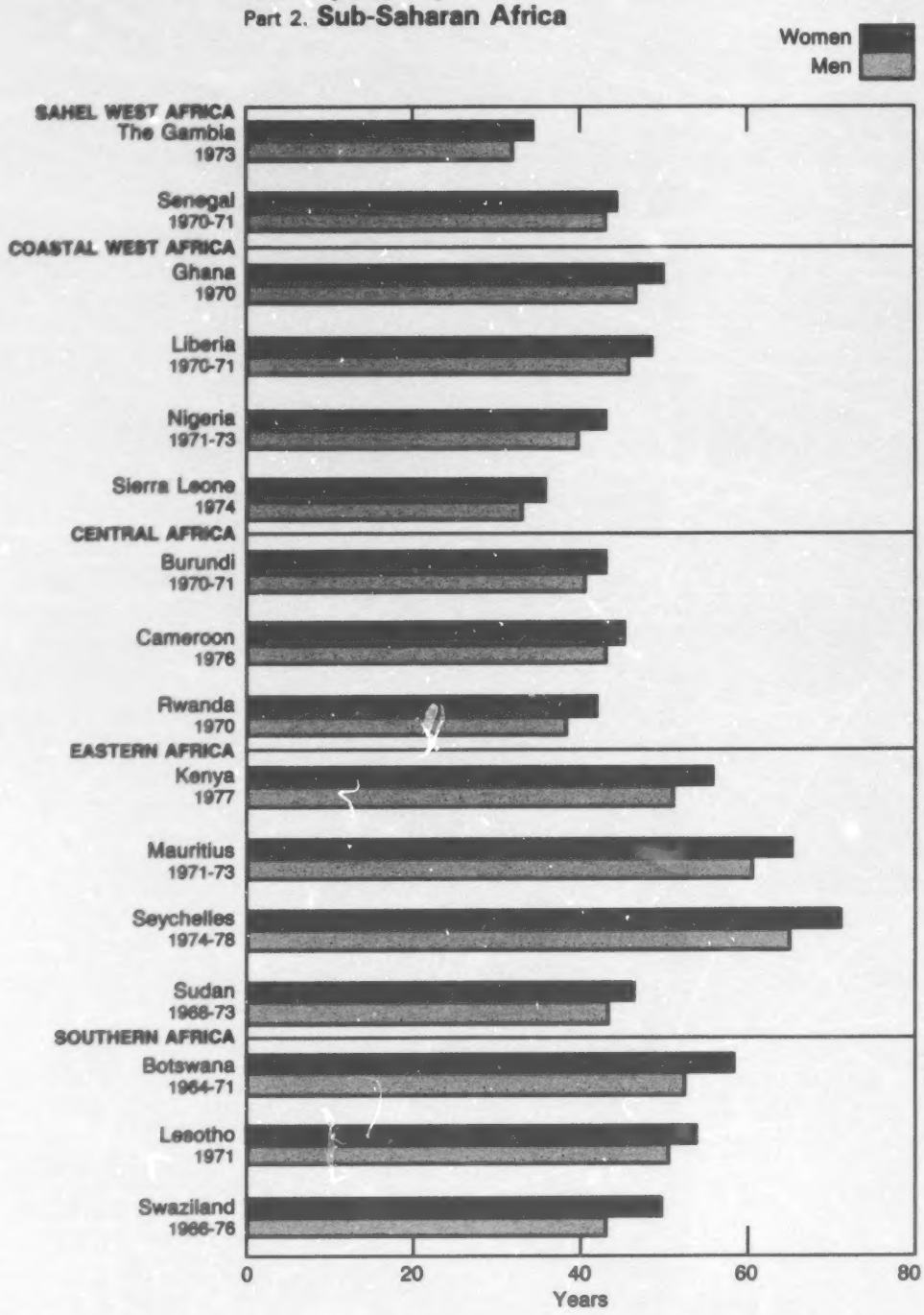


Chart 17.
Life Expectancy at Birth
Part 3. Near East and North Africa

By world standards, life expectancy at birth for both women and men is at moderate levels in much of the Near East/North Africa region. Among the countries with data, only in the Arab countries of Western South Asia does life expectancy surpass 60 years for both sexes. Longevity is usually more favorable for women than men, but in the Middle South Asian countries included in this region, the reverse is true.

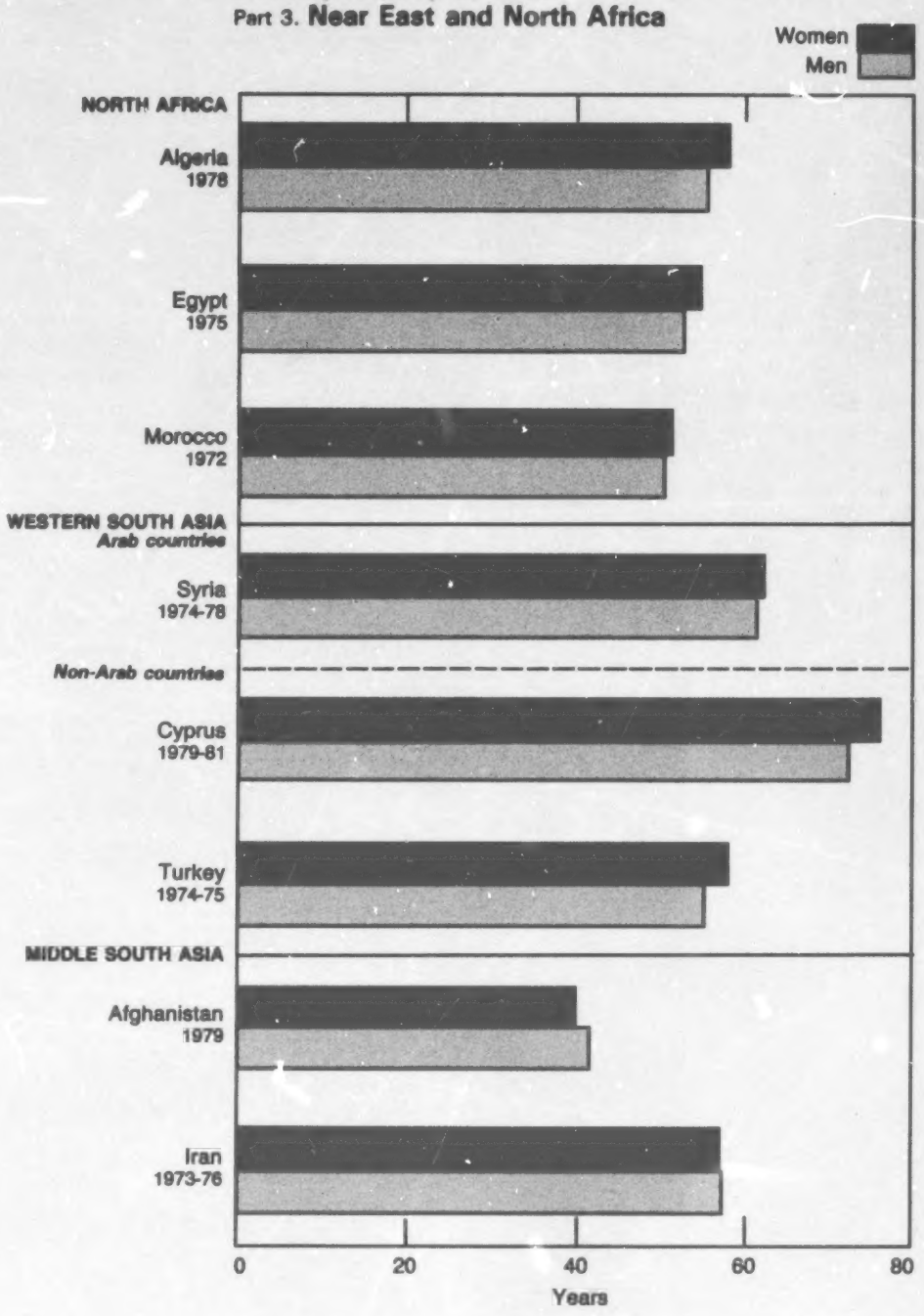
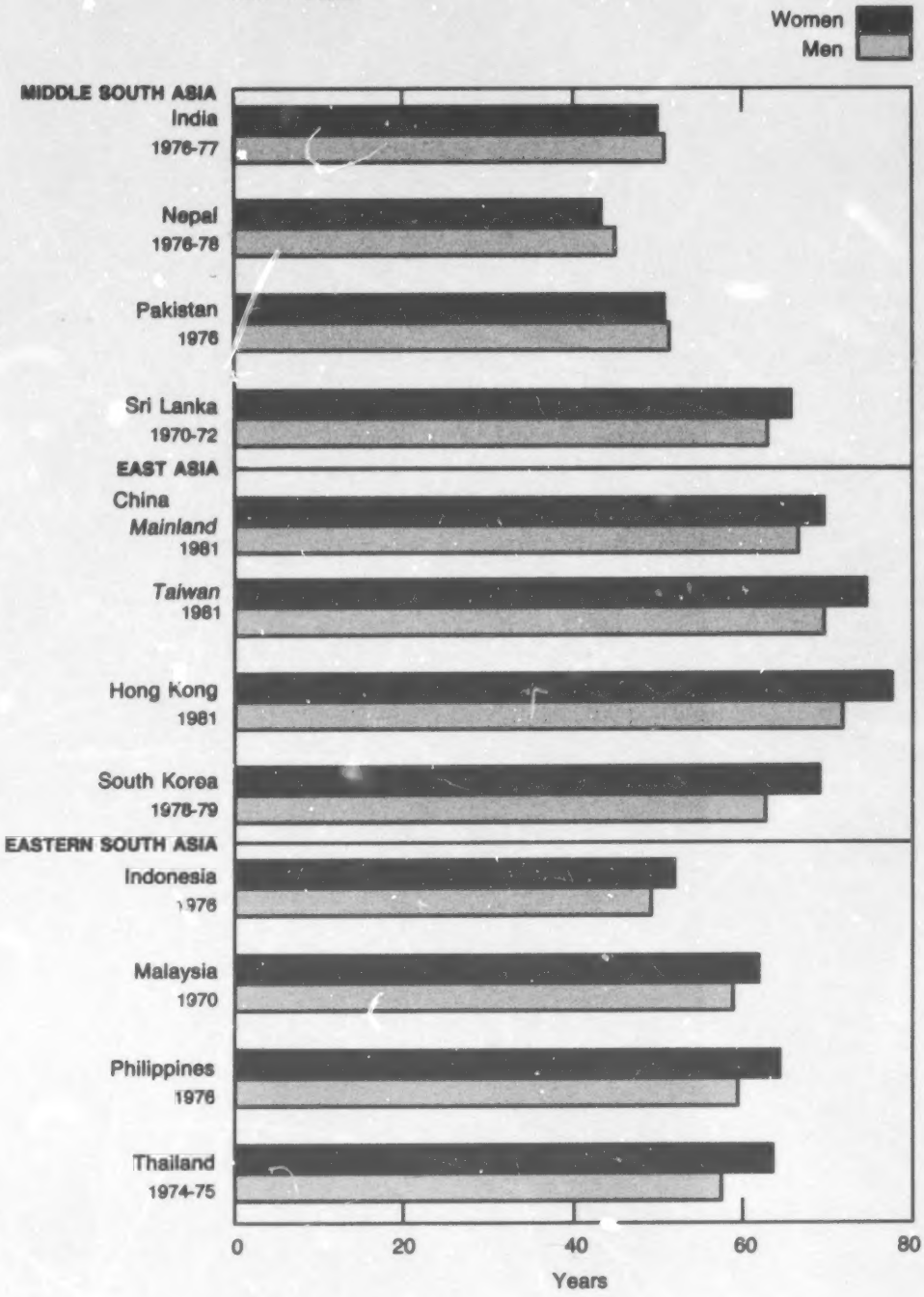


Chart 17.
Life Expectancy at Birth
Part 4. **Asia**

In contrast to the world norm, women in some countries of Middle South Asia have poorer survival chances than their male counterparts for reasons that are still largely unexplained. Life expectancies for both sexes in these countries are rather low by world standards.

In the rest of Asia, as elsewhere in the world, women tend to outlive men, with survival of both sexes usually meeting or exceeding the global average. In East Asia, in particular, life expectancy at birth has reached levels that are among the highest in developing countries.



(Continued from page 1)
presented for each topic even though this sometimes means presenting data for different dates for a given country from one chart to the next.

Statistics upon which these charts are based have been screened for quality, and only those judged to be reliable have been included. Nevertheless, there are often differences from one country to another in the precise concepts measured by the censuses and surveys, and no attempt has been made to standardize the data for such discrepancies. Concepts are discussed in detail in the four regional reports in the *Women of the World* series.

A large portion of the data is taken from the four earlier reports, but more recent statistics are included whenever they are available. Sources of the statistics, qualifying information, and other notes describing minor discrepancies in age groups are available in the Women In Development Data Base, the International Data Base, and other research files maintained for each country at the Center for International Research. A few qualifications to the data will be mentioned here to avoid misinterpretation. In the case of Jordan, data refer to East Bank residents only, except for the total population in chart 1, which refers to East and West Bank combined. For Afghanistan, data refer to the settled (non-nomadic) population only. In chart 2, where two census dates are presented for most countries, only one date is shown in the few cases where countries have not conducted a second recent census. In chart 6, data for Asia in the youngest age group refer to age 10 to 24 years instead of 15 to 24 years as in the other regions. In all charts, a particular country is omitted if no data are available on the topic being presented.

Data sources and related information are available by addressing specific questions to the Chief, Center for International Research, Bureau of the Census, Room 709 Scuderi Building, Washington, D.C. 20233, USA. Comments on the chartbook are also welcome.

A limited number of the first four reports in the *Women of the World* series are available free of charge for overseas distribution by writing to the Center for International Research (see address above). Users in the United States may obtain hard copy for $5.50 each or microfiche copy (price varies) from Customer services, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233, U.S.A.

Definition of Terms

The concepts presented graphically in this chartbook are based on statistics taken principally from censuses and surveys conducted in the individual countries. While each country defines terms in its own way, the concepts are alike in at least a general way, as described below.

Distribution of lifetime fertility. The proportion of total fertility that occurs in each age group during a woman's reproductive years. (See total fertility rate.)

Head of household. Most censuses do not provide a precise definition of household headship. In some areas, where social norms do not yet support the idea of a female head of household, both respondents and enumerators tend to assign nominal headship to any available male.

Infant mortality rate. The number of deaths among infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births occurring in the same calendar year.

Labor force participation rate. The proportion of women or men of specified ages who are employed in the formal economic sector or seeking work. Some censuses or surveys differ in including or excluding particular categories of workers or in their precise definitions of economic activity. The concept of "unpaid family worker" is especially variable. Throughout the Third World, women participate actively in informal labor markets. In many instances, a large proportion of women's work in general (and women's work in the informal sector in particular) is traditionally not counted in statistics on the labor force.

Life expectancy at birth. The average number of years to be lived by persons born in a particular year if mortality at each age remains constant in the future.

Literate. A literate person is usually defined simply as one who can read and write. Some censuses add more specific criteria, such as the ability to write a statement about everyday life or the ability to read and write a particular language.

Rural/urban residence. Statistics are presented in the chartbook by rural/urban residence as defined by each individual country's census. These definitions may vary considerably according to the particular criteria of each nation.

School enrollment. Usually refers to the proportion of children of a specified age who are enrolled in school on the census date; occasionally, statistics are based on administrative records of the school system. The measure does not take into account actual attendance at school nor does it make allowance for students who enroll but later drop out.

Total fertility rate. Total lifetime fertility of the average woman in a country. Specifically, calculated as the average number of children that would be born per woman if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to a given set of age-specific fertility rates. (Age-specific fertility rates are the average annual number of births to women in a given age group per 1,000 women in that age group at midyear.)

Women's share of labor force. The percentage of all members of the labor force who are women.